

**LAW FOR CHANGE
STUDENT
COMPETITION 2017**

TEAM 1	TITLE Equalising Rights of the Intellectually Disabled in the Context of Access to Justice and Political Participation
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1 INTRODUCTION

Equality, a universally-accepted value, is of fundamental importance in a civilised society like Hong Kong (HK) because it coincides with beliefs like equal human dignity and mutual respect. It is not about treating everyone equally, but treating the unequals unequally which gives rise to equal opportunities. To achieve equality, laws play an important role in protecting the minorities' rights through expressed and unequivocal texts.

Instead of a general anti-discrimination law as in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong (HK) relies on four anti-discrimination ordinances, including the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) (DDO) which lists thoroughly the equitable rights that ought to be enjoyed by the legally recognised disabled people in areas of employment, education and enjoyment of facilities and services. The existence of such ordinance protects the disadvantaged groups from discrimination in their social life on one hand, on the other hand however gives a false sense of complacency for the society to improve the laws. Little has been done on the protection of equal opportunities in terms of access to justice and the political rights of the disabled. The thinking that the disabled do not have these higher aspirations and spiritual needs is itself a prejudice. Our team realise the DDO and other related provisions e.g. Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613) are slow in responding to those needs, and through this project we hope to trailblaze such a change in the law.

Our Inspiration

The recent tragedy of suspected sexual assault in Bridge of Rehabilitation Company and the subsequent acquittal of the suspected co-founder due to the intellectually disabled victim's failure to give evidence has further revealed the inadequate support provided for the intellectually disabled to access to justice. The tragedy also highlighted the special vulnerability of the intellectually disabled (defined below), as they may be less fierce in striving for their rights compared to other physically disabled persons due to their impairments

and inadequate exposures to the existence of the rights that everyone deserves but are absent due to the stagnant development of laws. The intellectually disabled need special care and assistance in realising their legal and political rights, not to mention striving for a change in law.

Inspired by these, we will focus on safeguarding and equalising the rights of the intellectually disabled, in particular to ease their access to justice and promote political rights that lack progression in HK and are often neglected. In light of the limited resources and short duration for implementation of our proposal, although we could proactively advocate for the intellectually disabled' rights on their behalf, the reality dictates that the impact to the society will be poignant at first but fleeting and unsustainable.

Hence, instead of organising a single petition campaign on the rights of the intellectually disabled appealing to the government and the public and later be forgotten by time, we will adopt a more sustainable approach, as the saying goes, "give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime". Our proposed activities, including an online forum incorporated with professional legal training and an outreach programme, aim not only at providing instant help to the intellectually disabled and their families, but also sustainably nurturing talents for continuance of the plan and promoting the awareness of both intellectually disabled and the public to strive for equal treatment for and political rights enjoyed by these disadvantaged.

Acknowledgement

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2 RELEVANT TERMINOLOGY

2.1. Intellectually Disabled

The definition of "intellectually disabled" provided by American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), which is widely recognised by HK NGOs focusing on intellectual disabilities e.g. Hong Chi Association, is referred to in this proposal:

- The person has demonstrated **significant sub-average limitation in intellectual functioning**, including comprehension, memory, use of information, problem solving.
- The person bears **limitations in adaptive behaviour** including conceptual (e.g. language, calculation and comprehension), social (e.g. interpersonal skills) and practical skills (e.g. personal care and occupational skills).
- These disabling conditions **occur before age of 18**, excluding those caused by disease or accident after childhood or by aging.

In Hong Kong, the severity of intellectual disability is defined quantitatively based on Intelligence Quotient (IQ) into three categories:

CATERGORIES	IQ
Mild grade	50-69
Moderate grade	49-25
Severe grade	24 or below

The target of this proposal refers to the intellectually disabled in general terms unless otherwise stated.

2.2 Access to Justice

It is a fundamental element of rule of law appreciated as a core value of Hong Kong. According to the United States Institute of Peace, access of justice does not limit to one's access to courts and legal representation, but also one's ability to seek and obtain a remedy through formal or informal institutions of justice for grievances in line with the standards related to human rights. This includes normative legal protection, legal awareness, legal aid and counsel, adjudication, enforcement, and civil society oversight.

It is remarked that with reference to the context and purpose our proposal, the gist lies in "equal access to justice", meaning that barriers as to both quantity and quality of justice accessed by the intellectually disabled should be minimised if not removed.

2.3 Political Participation

There is no universally accepted definition of political participation. One of the available definitions provided by Verba et al is "activity with the intent or effect of influencing government actions either directly by affecting the making or implementation of public policies or indirectly by influencing the selection of people who make those policies". Examples include voting for representatives, taking part in organisations to influence policies, communicating interests by engaging in public debates and consultations.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Preliminary Inspirations

In 2016, the shocking and tragic scandal of Bridge of Rehabilitation Company (the Scandal) has successfully aroused public awareness concerning the treatment received and rights enjoyed by the intellectually disabled. In this incident, despite being highly suspected to have raped an intellectually disabled female patient, the co-founder of the concerned care home was acquitted because the victim could not participate to offer witness statements to prove the case beyond the reasonable doubt in compliance with the requirements in Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) (CPO). This unsatisfactory outcome has triggered public's disgust towards the unfairness brought by the stringent legal requirements.

This incident has prompted us to investigate more on the disadvantageous situation and challenges faced by the intellectually disabled, in particular concerning the criminal procedures which may serve as a barrier to their access to justice. We are keen on figuring out any fundamental rights that are not enjoyed by the intellectually disabled like those in foreign countries yet may be neglected by many.

3.2 Research Findings on Current Situation

3.2.1 Access to Justice

According to Article 13(1) of the CRPD, the disabled should be "on an equal basis with others" regarding to "access to justice". The disabled should enjoy their roles as direct and indirect participants in the legal proceedings, given that there are provisional procedural accommodations, and the public servants should receive appropriate trainings to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities.

The most recent reforms for the criminal proceedings to cater for the intellectually disabled's needs are the 17 reforms concerning the provision of a comfortable court setting for the intellectually disabled to give witness statements enacted back in 1993, in light of a case with similar fact patterns and outcome with the Scandal. While in 1995 the CPO is amended to enable to admittance of video recording as an evidence provided by the mentally incapacitated.

Yet it is apparent that the reforms are no longer sufficient to ensure equal access to justice by the intellectually disabled who possess a lower level of adaptability to new environment that is less familiar to them.

3.2.2 Political Participation

Article 29(a) of the CPRD mentioned the States Parties should guarantee the disabled person's political rights and opportunities to enjoy the political and public life, by ensuring the effectiveness and equal participations of the life to the persons, as well as "ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use".

The very first step to ensure their political life is by promoting their rights to vote, which there have been insufficient initiations in Hong Kong yet.

Section 53(5)(d) of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) and section 30(e) of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547) stated "an elector is disqualified from voting at an election if the elector is found under the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap. 136) (MHO) to be incapable, by reason of mental incapacity, of managing and administering his or her property and affairs". While under MHO, the definition of "mentally incapacitated person" does not limit to people who are incapable administering his property and affairs due to mental incapacity and mental patients, but also extends to those who are intellectually handicapped. Currently, all those with IQ lower than 70 are not allowed to participate into the voting system. It is argued that this rigid boundary is not proportionate to the rational legislative intent of preventing manipulation of votes, but deprives the right to vote of a class of the intellectually disabled.

Comparatively, the United Kingdom abolished the similar restriction in 2006 and has been facilitating the political life by providing easy-to-understand electoral materials to those in need. While in Japan, the Tokyo District Court ruled in March 2013 that a provision in the public offices election law that banned adults under legal guardianship from voting was unconstitutional. The decision is reasoned on the ground that that the guardianship is to protect rights but not to deprive rights.

4 OBJECTIVES

Our proposal is divided into two parts, namely easing the access to justice by the intellectually disabled, and motivating them to strive for the often-neglected political rights, specifically their right to vote. Objectives for each part are as follows:

4.1 For Access to Justice

Our first objective is to raise the awareness of the intellectually disabled regarding their accessibility to justice and equip them with basic skills to express themselves in legal procedures. The nature of intellectual disability may contribute to the extra vulnerability of our target group in legal proceedings. For one thing, they may be slow to give witness statements or evidence due to unfamiliar environments and settings in courts or in police stations. The credibility of their statements may also be undervalued due to prejudice and stereotypes.

We realise that the government has once published a booklet in 2006 to use simple languages and poems to equip the intellectually disabled with skills of answering questions in the court proceedings and assist their mental preparation. However, the effectiveness is uncertain because the guidelines are general.

Therefore, in order to support the target group in accessing to justice, we aim at offering the intellectually disabled to learn about the related provisions in the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap.221) (CPO), as well as giving advice and information on legal proceedings and witness skills on a case-to-case basis, comprehensively equipping them for the proceedings.

It is important to note that waves of suggestions concerning amendments to the criminal procedures (e.g. relaxing the ban of hearsay) have been proposed by law-related organisations and concern groups after the Scandal. However, the demands no longer sustained after a year.

Yet, we recognised in a civilised rule-of-law society that everyone's rights including those of the minorities should be aware of and respected. Hence, we also aim at raising the public awareness on the importance of removing legal barriers that bar the intellectually disabled from equal opportunities to give evidence/ defend themselves through highlighting the current plight and lack of progression in easing the access to justice.

4.2 For Right to Vote

Our second objective is to extend the intellectually disabled's awareness from their economic and social rights (e.g. concerning education and employment) to their political rights, of which our focus is right to vote.

It is understandable that some intellectually disabled lack ability to understand the voting systems and relevant materials, and it is not unreasonable to impose the political restrictions to ensure the outcome is contributed by sound and informed judgements.

However, as mentioned in Chapter 3, the current absolute ban on the intellectually disabled's right to vote is no longer proportionate and up-to-date when compared with other countries' examples. Understanding the ultimate goal of advocating the right will be amending the existing legislations, we aim at promoting the essence of this right and the outdatedness of current related legislation through comparative analysis and campaigns, thus motivating the target group and the public to strive for more legal reforms towards the protection of intellectually disabled.

5 OVERVIEW OF WORKING SCHEDULE AND BUDGET

5.1 Working Schedule

STAGE	TASKS
Stage 1: Project Initiation, 1st - 3rd month	<p>Online Support Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the focus of website • Invite IT student volunteers and local artists to design the website • Invite professionals and students to carry out research • Recruitment of trainers and volunteers • Pairing of trainers and trainees • Prepare bundles for training <p>Outreach Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making contact with schools, care homes, estate managers and NGOs • Design of pamphlets by arts student volunteers/ local artists • Recruitment of students as helpers for talks/ workshops • Invite legal professionals/ NGOs to hold talks/ workshops in schools • Preparation of materials for talks/ workshops/ booths
Stage 2: Implementation, 4nd - 6th month	<p>Online Support Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial run and official launch of website • Equip volunteers with basic legal knowledge via workshops and visits to care homes • Commencement of the operation of the legal advice forum <p>Outreach Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of promotional activities: • Distribution of pamphlets in schools, care homes and NGOs • Holding talks in secondary schools and care homes • hold booths in densely populated area
Stage 3: Post Implementation, 7th - 12th month	Continuous operation of the whole program with quarterly monitoring and evaluation
Stage 4: After the 1 year program (sustainable development)	The whole campaign continues with continuous operation of training program and website by volunteers

5.2 Overall Budget

STAGE	ESTIMATED EXPENSES	ESTIMATED COSTS
Stage 1: Project Initiation, 1st - 3rd month	<p>Online Support Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booking fees for venues for interviews and workshops • Creation of Website • Subscription fee for service <p>Outreach Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing fees of 4000 leaflets and credits/ thank-you letters to volunteers • Pamphlet design 	\$1,790
Stage 2: Implementation, 4nd - 6th month	<p>Online Support Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing fees of bundle for trainees (A4 20 pages) <p>Outreach Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing fees of additional leaflets • Transportation fee to schools, care homes, estate public places and NGOs • Souvenirs • Pull-up banner 	\$15,300
Stage 3: Post Implementation, 7th - 12th month	<p>Online Support Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing fees of surveys if needed <p>Outreach Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing fees of feedback form 	TBC
Stage 4: After the 1 year program (sustainable development)	<p>Online Support Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscription fee for websites per annum <p>Outreach Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing fees of additional leaflets (TBC) 	\$1,200/ year
TOTAL:		\$18,290

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR EASING THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED

ONLINE SUPPORT SCHEME FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE

6.1 Activity Plan

The scheme is divided into three parts:

1. **Information site** serves as a descriptive and thought-provoking tool to educate the public of the current situation of access to justice by the intellectually disabled and related provisions, case studies and comparative analyses.

Linkage to Equality: The intellectually disabled can acquire legal knowledge and learn about the inequality existing in the current legal system as inadequate special treatments are provided for them to have equal opportunities in criminal proceedings. This empowers the target group and their relatives to strive for equality.

2. **Online advice forum** serves as a direct helping hand to the intellectually disabled involved in criminal offences and court proceedings, equipping and preparing them with skills to cope with the unfamiliar procedures.

Linkage to Equality: Through case-by-case discussion, the intellectually disabled can receive tailor-made advice from our legally-trained advisors as their individual circumstances can be taken into account in this personalised advice forum. Equality is fulfilled as individuals have equal opportunities to receive the appropriate help according to their individual differences.

3. **Training scheme**, being one of the most innovative elements of the scheme, serves as an incentive to attract not only professionals but also law students and NGO volunteers as helpers to run and sustain the online advice forum.

Linkage to Equality: Equality is not only about people receiving equal opportunities, but also about freeing the community from prejudice and discrimination and the notion that every life should weigh equally should be widely recognised. By inviting helpers from all walks of life to engage in the program, the societal mindsets towards equality can be influenced bit by bit.

It is hoped that the fusion of these elements can comprehensively mitigate the current situation of limited access to justice by the intellectually disabled, especially those arising from the stringent provisions in CPO and personal disadvantaged characteristics, such as incapability of communication and thinking, of the intellectually disabled.

6.1.1 Information Site

Objectives:

- To promote specific legal knowledge and comparative analysis related to the rights of the intellectually disabled and criminal procedures to both the intellectually disabled and the public; and
- To raise awareness of the intellectually disabled and their families concerning their access to justice and to expose the inadequacies of the current laws through interactive media

Implementation Plan:

Preparation of Information

Preliminary areas of information to be incorporated in the website include:

- Sections relevant to the intellectually disabled in CPO
- Current situation in HK (e.g. news reports of the Scandal and other similar torture cases suffered by the intellectually disabled; any case studies of the intellectually disabled involving in course proceedings sought)
- Other countries' approaches in assisting the intellectually disabled in CPO

Consultation and survey will firstly be conducted to seek for opinions of the intellectually disabled and their families through NGOs to better understand the areas of law that they will be more interested in and concerned with in addition to the aforementioned areas.

Professors from Faculty of Law, the University of Hong Kong (e.g. Mr. Eric Cheung) and students from Free Legal Advice Scheme on HKU Campus will be invited to

collaborate by contributing to the information bank and proofreading, given that they are more knowledgeable and experienced in presenting legal knowledge with clarity.

Invitations for collaboration will further be sent to all current law undergraduates and postgraduates for research and preparation of information packs.

Certificates and thank-you letters will be presented to the volunteers as an expression of gratitude.

Establishment and Design of the Website

Subscription for server of website e.g. WordPress and Wix will be done.

Mass E-mails will be sent to all HKU students to seek for volunteers possessing the website-designing and art skills to contribute to the website.

Promotion of the Website

Local artists and YouTubers will be reached for the support of the campaign by inviting them to submit artistic expressions relevant to this theme e.g. songs, illustrations and short clips which will be put into the website to enhance its attractiveness, as well as in their own page or sites with our website link attached to reach out to the greater population.

Certificates and thank-you letter will be presented to them as an expression of gratitude. Volunteering will be mostly welcome, or else a small portion of money will be prepared in exchange for their creations.

NGOs concerning the intellectually disabled will be contacted to annex the website into their sites or any information packs they prepared, adding credibility and popularity of the site. They may be invited to help distribute leaflets (or pamphlets if resources allow) containing the link previously prepared by us to the visitors of their centres.

The aforementioned leaflets will be made and distributed under the Outreach Project (see 6.2 below)

Sustainment of the Website

The volunteer web-designer will be encouraged to provide continuous technical support for maintenance and updates of the website.

New videos and new information packs will be uploaded regularly per month to attract regular visitors to the website.

Sponsorships from NGOs will be invited to sustain the website. In return our website will serve as a platform to promote their organisations and connect the intellectually disabled and their families to other related services provided by different NGOs.

Required Input:

- At least 1 law professors for proper proofreading on the accuracy and clarity of the information.
- At least 20 volunteering students in contribution of information and technical support.
- Additional sponsorship for making 200 leaflets for each NGO centre and gratuitous payment to local artists and YouTubers.

Desired Outcomes:

- At least 55,000 views of our website will be received in the first year (calculated based on the approximately 8,800,000 views of the website "Community Legal Information Centre" (CLIC) prepared by Law and Technology Centre, the University of Hong Kong since April 2012 containing 29 topics).
- 5-10 related NGOs will agree to collaborate and promote our website.
- Positive feedbacks concerning the website can be received.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

- Count of views of the website will be incorporated into the information site to evaluate its popularity. If it is unsatisfactory, more promotional work has to be done, including contacting more NGOs for promotion, increasing its appearance in search engines and initiating advertisements on social media.

- When visitors the website, a box will appear with a link to a survey made using Google Form concerning the information, user-friendliness, and area for improvement of the website. Hence, effectiveness of the assistance provided to the visitors can be evaluated, and timely comments can be received from the visitors to make necessary amendments to the website.
- Opinions from NGOs and their visitors will be sought using the aforementioned survey.

6.1.2 Online Advice Forum

Objectives:

- To provide an interactive and timely platform for the intellectually disabled to seek legal advice, especially on how to deal with the court proceedings and delivery of witness statements.

Implementation Plan:

Preparatory Stage

The forum will be incorporated as a webpage of the information site (see 6.1.1 above), and will be established, designed, and maintained by the aforementioned volunteering students.

A registration system using Google Form will be set up for people to register for free if they will like to post their questions or situations to seek for legal advice. Personal information will be collected for follow-up work e.g. face-to-face discussion if necessary.

E-mails will be sent to the professors and pro-bono lawyers participating in the Duty Lawyer Scheme to invite them for collaboration. Their roles include directly providing free legal advice online, and taking part in the Training Programme (see 6.1.3 below) to train current law students to provide legal advice.

Functioning of the Forum

The layout of the forum will be similar with other available discussion forums.

Upon registration, the members can anonymously post their questions and situations onto the forum. If they are general matters, students taking part in the Training Scheme (trainees) will reply according to the answer prepared in the bundle. If the cases are fact-specific, the issues will be addressed either by the volunteering professors and pro bono workers directly,

or by the trainees who will firstly draft the legal advice and submit it to their trainers for approval. (See 6.1.3 below for the more detailed plan)

If the cases are so serious and specific that follow-up meetings are required, information of legal clinics and Free Legal Advice Scheme on HKU Campus will be given to the inquirers to meet with professors and pro bono lawyers on their own.

Unregistered visitors will be allowed to read the problems and legal advice only.

Promotion

The forum will be promoted at the same time with the Information Site (see 6.1.1 above) via NGOs' websites and issuance of leaflets.

The leaflets will be further distributed to disabled schools and care homes for the disabled to promote the forum to a larger population, enabling more people in need to seek advice during Outreach Project (see 6.2 below).

Required Input:

- At least 10 professors and pro bono lawyers offer help by directly giving legal advice or as trainers.
- At least 20 current law students as trainees.
- Additional sponsorship for making leaflets for each disabled schools and care homes (depending on their sizes).

Desired Outcomes:

- At least 100 visitors register in the first year.
- At least 20 specific cases concerning the intellectually disabled are handled in the first year, in addition to general enquiries.
- Enquiries can be answered within two days.
- Positive feedbacks can be received from both the inquirers and volunteering lawyers and law students.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

- The situation of registration and posting inquiries will be closely monitored. If the feedback rate is not satisfactory yet knowingly there are potential cases existing in the society, more promotion will be done. The NGOs, disabled schools and care homes will be contacted again to encourage them to further promote, as well as to encourage the person-in-charge to register and report any potential legal matters onto the forum.

- Constant advice will be sought from the experienced pro bono workers, such as how to encourage the intellectually disabled and their families to face their problems and stand up to voice out for their interests.
- The aforementioned survey in 6.1.1 will incorporate a section to allow users to comment on the effectiveness, user-friendliness and areas for improvement of the forum.

6.1.3 Training Programme

Objectives:

- To sustain the website and the online forum by well-trained generations of volunteers
- To equip lawyers-to-be with practical skills of offering legal advice through a voluntary scheme
- To introduce the lack of criminal justice to the next generation, so that they will be more motivated and supportive for any reforms and improvement.

Implementation Plan:

Preparatory Stage

Invitation to the lawyers and the professors will be made for being trainers of the programme.

Current law students will be reached to be trainees via mass E-mail, while interviewing sessions will be conducted on a rolling basis to select enthusiastic and competent trainees.

Trainers will be invited to come up with a uniformed direction on the training scheme. They may offer their knowledge by sharing experience and opinion on the criminal procedural insufficiencies for the preparation of the materials. They will also help in the programme by offering their knowledge while handling online enquiries with the trainees.

Further, from the preparatory work done for the online information and advice site, extensive research will have been done, and the mostly needed aspect of equality will be identified. A bundle will be prepared in regard of these topics for trainees as reference for answer general matters in online forum.

It is noticed that online resources might not be very familiar to the intellectually disabled, and probably they will also prefer receiving clinical advice by face-to-face communication. face-to-face advice will be provided if necessary and the related skills will be taught to trainees.

Giving Advice

Trainers and trainees will be matched. There will be at least one trainer for two trainees.

Trainees will receive preliminary training through workshops based on the materials prepared before they work with the trainers in providing legal advice. This is to ensure that they had the basic knowledge of the legal problems they will likely face, and to make sure they have appropriate attitudes when they encounter with different intellectually disabled.

A roster will be issued to pairs of trainers and trainee listing the allocation of duty to give advice (in terms of time). Through giving advice with the trainers, trainees will have the advantage of getting first-hand experience in dealing with real life legal issues, and will acquire relevant knowledge and experience.

Running the Online Advice Forum

Trainees will receive trainings in operating the online platforms. Trainings will be held by the IT students who help design and begin the platform, and through assisting the daily operation of the website, they will be more experienced to run the platform and help sustain it in the future.

Required Input:

- At least 1 law professor for proper proofreading on the accuracy and clarity of the information.
- At least 20 volunteering students (from the research teams for the online information and advice scheme) in contribution of collaboration of the training materials.
- Venues for the training workshops.

Desired Outcomes:

- At least 10 experienced pro bono practitioners offering legal advice and training.
- At least 20 law students as mentees to receive trainings and help sustain the programme.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

- Feedback forms from the advice receivers will be received. Data will be collected and analysed.
- Regular meetings with the trainers and trainees will be held to reflect on the ongoing processes, to identify the loopholes of the scheme and to rectify possible insufficiencies.

6.2 Working Schedule

STAGES	TASKS
1st - 3rd month	<p>Information Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct consultation: find the intellectually disabled, their families and NGOs to provide their view on the issue Invite professors, pro bono lawyers and students to prepare the information to be included in the website Invite IT student volunteer to create the website Search for artists and youtubers to help design for and promote the website <p>Online Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite professors and pro bono lawyers to commit for at least a year Adopt information from the information site to prepare the bundle <p>Training Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite pro bono lawyers and law students Complete the pairing and hold mini-gatherings Prepare bundles
4th month - 5th month	<p>Information Site and Online Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial run the website and online forum <p>Training Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver bundles Training workshops by pro bono lawyers for trainees
From 6th month	<p>Whole scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official launch of information site and online forum Put up promotion materials e.g. collaboration with more artists on a regular basis Keep checking the survey response Do monthly evaluation with participants of the training schemes Seek opinions from the collaborating NGOs towards the end of the year

6.3 Proposed Budget

STAGES	ESTIMATED EXPENSES	ESTIMATED COSTS	COSTS REDUCTION
Stage 1: Project Initiation	Booking fee for venues for interviews and workshops	N/A	Find free rooms in the University of Hong Kong or seek help from Faculty of Law, the University of Hong Kong
	Creation of Website	N/A	Volunteering students might have free software accounts for creating website
	Subscription fee for service plan for website	\$1,200	Might get a bargain from the company in sake of the socially beneficial campaign
Stage 2: Implementation	Printing fees of bundle for trainees (A4 20 pages)	\$6 (\$0.3 per page)	N/A
Stage 3: Post Implementation	Printing fees of surveys if needed	TBC	Surveys received from the advisee through the online platform could be done online Surveys received from the programme participators can also be conducted with the online google forms
	Credits/ thank-you letter to the volunteers	TBC	N/A
Stage 4: After the 1 year program (sustainable development)	Subscription fee for websites per annum	\$1200/ year	Might get bargain price from long-term contracts

7 PROPOSED ACTIVITY FOR ADVOCATING POLITICAL RIGHT TO VOTE OF THE INTELLIGENTLY DISABLED

7.1 Activity Plan

The target audience of the outreach program are both the general public and the intellectually disabled. It involves a series of public lectures and talks, as well as the distribution of pamphlets and holding booths on the streets with the aims of public education, increasing awareness and attracting social helps from the professionals and Legislative Council members (for example, Dr Hon Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung and Hon Dennis Kwok Wing-hang, who have been taking heed on the relevant political rights for years).

Linkage to Equality: This is important for achieving equality because raising public awareness will gather greater support for the legal changes and reforms to political rights protection of the intellectually disabled. Equality is not only about the disadvantaged group being treated specially by the government, but also about tolerance and patience in a civil society. The outreach program will raise public empathy and create a harmonic environment for the pursuit of equality. The project will even possibly inspire other disadvantaged groups to stand up for their rights, creating a momentum in striving for equality in society.

Objectives:

- To raise the public awareness towards the lack of progression of laws when compared with other countries' situations, and unfairness created to the intelligently disabled when they still lack political right to vote;
- To educate the public on the equalisation on political rights, and the intellectually disabled about the right they deserve;
- To motivate the stakeholders to prompt the development of related laws;
- To further promote our socially-responsible project.
- Introduce the public to more related NGOs and connect the efforts of the NGOs

Implementation Plan:

Preparation of Pamphlets

Pamphlets will be used for the outreach programme after the following preparations:

Content of Pamphlets

Research will be done by the aforementioned research teams. They will do research beyond the issues pertaining to access to justice. They will also be invited to do research on current insufficiencies on the promotion of political rights of the intellectually disabled in Hong Kong, and possibly workout some solutions with reference to the foreign systems. Their research result will be included in the pamphlets to be distributed. Statistics will be included to illustrate the current situation to the public more clearly.

Some other NGOs and bodies related to intellectual disabilities will be introduced in the pamphlets so that the target audience could connect to them easily if interested.

Design of Pamphlet and Souvenirs

For the design of the pamphlets, local art students will be invited to contribute to the aesthetic and proper delivery of message with illusion

Recruitment of Volunteers

Secondary schools will be reached for the recruitment of volunteers. This will be counted as part of the extracurricular activity with certificates provided to increase incentive. The secondary school students will be capable in participating in the programme as the outreaching part does not require much professional knowledge. Volunteers will also be recruited by mass emails sent to the university students. Moreover, with the ongoing programme, more volunteers might be recruited from the general public.

Contacting Stakeholders

Primary, secondary schools and community centres will be reached for holding talks and workshop in introducing the idea of equalising political right to vote to the general public. It is of paramount importance to introduce the idea of equality to the students at

the stage as this will very likely leave a core impression which drive them support future relevant campaigns.

Estates managers and the government office will also be reached to request for possible occasions to hold the public lectures in the public space, as well as to hold booths, so that we could raise the greatest public awareness. Further, care homes and special schools will also be reached to hold talks introducing the right to vote to the disabled.

Pro bono lawyers, professors and law students will be reached as well to be invited to assist in talks/ workshops regarding equality and the constitutional right to vote. Professionals like the lawyers and the NGO representatives will be invited to give talks as well.

Promotion

Legislative Council members mentioned above and the District Council member's office will be reached to gain more concrete support in promotion, such as permission to stick posters or allocate pamphlets there. They might also provide support by sharing us the network so that we could reach out more people.

Souvenirs will also be designed and distributed. It is suggested that the souvenirs will be practical in use so that the public will be interested in getting one and know more about the campaign through the souvenirs.

Outreaching

Volunteers will be grouped into different groups for assisting talks, workshops and holding booths. They will be on duty according to the duty roster.

The number and frequency of talks held eventually will depend on the number of schools and care homes agreeing to collaborate. It is proposed to hold booths once a quarter at weekends in densely populated areas such as Causeway Bay and in underprivileged areas.

All volunteers will have a briefing on the content of the pamphlet. This is to promote the idea of equality among the participants and fortify their knowledge of equality in political right.

Further, different groups will receive different briefing before the commencement of that particular outreaching activities. For example, helpers assisting talks will receive briefing on the flow of the talks, while those holding booths will receive trainings/ briefing on the content and possible Q&A conversations they might have with the public. This could possibly equip them with the skills to advocate to others the importance of right to vote.

Topics will be assigned to the lawyers/ NGOs who have been working on the related issues to introduce to the public and the disabled about different aspects of the political rights. It is hoped that the audience will thus be more familiar with the NGOs which share the same vision, and collaboration between different NGOs can be enhanced throughout the program, so that the function to bridge them for greater influences can be performed.

Required Input:

- At least 1 law professor for proper proofreading on the accuracy and clarity of the information
- Research done by aforementioned student volunteers
- Venues for holding talks and booths

Desired Outcomes:

- At least 25 talks are held in schools and care homes with attendees over 1000 each time in the first year.
- 1000 pamphlets distributed to the public when holding booths quarterly.
- Increased views at the websites.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

- Feedback forms for schools (students and teachers) and care homes after talks will be distributed for further analysis of data.
- Allocation of resources and methods of promoting ideas will accordingly be adjusted based on response rate and degree of awareness of the issue. For example, if people in particular areas are more willing to accept the pamphlets, booths will be held there; if otherwise, more pamphlets will be put in community centres, care homes and schools for the target groups to take.

7.2 Working Schedule

STAGES	TASKS
1st - 3rd month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite arts student volunteers and local artists (if possible) to design the pamphlets Incorporate research done by aforementioned student volunteers Recruit students as helpers Contact schools, care homes, estate managers and NGOs Contact NGOs/ professionals to host talks Prepare materials for talks/ workshops/ booths
4th month - 12th month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute pamphlets to schools, care homes and NGOs Hold talks/ workshops in schools, estates and care homes hold booths in densely populated area

7.3 Proposed Budget

STAGES	ESTIMATED EXPENSES	ESTIMATED COSTS	COSTS REDUCTION
Stage 1: Project Initiation	Printing fees of 4000 A5 leaflets	\$590 (quoted from e-print)	N/A
	Pamphlet design	N/A	Arts student volunteers or local artist volunteers
Stage 2: Implementation	Printing fees of additional leaflets	TBC	N/A
	Transportation fee to schools, care homes, estate public places and NGOs	N/A	Paid by helpers
	Booking of the estate public places/ community centres	TBC	Bargain for nominal charge for the sake of socially beneficial campaign
	Credits/ thank-you letters to volunteers	TBC	N/A
	Souvenirs: The type of souvenirs to be confirmed. Suggested example can be pens and tote bags printed with designs and slogans.	\$12000	
	Pull-up banners	\$300	Borrow from friends
Stage 3: Post Implementation	Printing fees of feedback form		N/A*
Stage 4: After the 1 year program (sustainable development)	Printing fees of additional leaflets	TBC	N/A

* online surveys might be used still, but given that the public outreaching programme has a larger number of audience, it is at best to have the feedback forms in paper to directly obtain response from all the audience we reach

8 CONCLUSION

We hope that the above activities, namely the initiation of the online support scheme (including the Website and the training program) and the outreach program can ultimately assist us in fulfilling our goals of promoting equal rights to be enjoyed by the intellectually disabled in accessing justice and political participation. By raising the awareness of the intellectually disabled and the public and equipping them with related legal knowledge, the equal opportunities received by our target groups can hopefully go beyond social needs, but also pursuit of justice and political aspiration. The support gathered for a change in law to improve the status quo will grow and equality can be reached. ■