

## **Response to the Passing of HK's first anti-racism law**

Amnesty International (AI) welcomes the passing of Hong Kong's first anti-racism law by the Legislative Council. Although the bill remains flawed and lags behind international standards Amnesty International considers the passing of the bill to be a step in the right direction.

Specifically, AI would like to commend the legislative council for rejecting the controversial amendment that sought to exempt language-based discrimination from the bill. The rejection of this amendment gave NGOs, human rights organizations and migrant groups a reason to celebrate, despite the fact that most of the provisions the groups actively voiced their concerns about were not addressed.

In light of the new ordinance, AI is committed to making sure all Hong Kong citizens and businesses are conscious of their responsibilities under the law. Additionally, AI will closely monitor the implementation of the law by the government to ensure that the level of protection against racial discrimination promised in the bill is delivered.

At the same time, Amnesty International remains concerned that the new ordinance does not meet international standards and fails to address all forms of racial discrimination. In fact, the new ordinance is not even on par with existing discrimination legislation such as the Sexual Discrimination Ordinance and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance. In recognition of the racial discrimination bill's shortcomings, Amnesty International will continue to press for both policies and legislation that reflect international standards and will continue to challenge Hong Kong to live up to all its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination. Only when these obligations are fulfilled will Hong Kong be truly deserving of its reputation as a developed, world-class city.

### **回應通過香港首條種族歧視條例**

國際特赦組織(下稱組織)歡迎立法會通過香港首條種族歧視條例草案。雖然法案仍然有不足，未能符合國際標準，但國際特赦組織仍然認為此條例草案帶領香港走向正確方向。

組織認為立法會所否決的一條富爭議的修正案—豁免語言歧視修訂。否決豁免語言歧視修訂令各非政府團體、人權組織和關注移民的組織都感到鼓舞。雖然

很多各團體所關心的議題都未有被列入條例草案。

在新草案下，組織承諾會令到市民大眾及商界意識到自己在法律下的責任。組織會同時密切監察政府有否履行法律，保證種族歧視條例草案所保障的範疇能夠明確實行。

同時，國際特赦組織關注新草案未能合乎國際標準，而且未有將所有形式的歧視包括在法案內。事實上，新草案並沒有達到過住所訂定的其他反歧視條例的標準，例如《性別歧視條例》及《殘疾歧視條例》。意識到新條例的不足，組織將繼續堅持要求政府在政策和立法兩方面表現出國際水平。國際特赦組織促請香港政府遵循《消除一切形式種族歧視國際公約》中所載作為締約成員須履行的責任，香港作為一個世界級城市，應通過乎合國際標準，並與其他已發展國家同等的種族歧視法例。