

GENDER RECOGNITION LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Saturday
23 September
9.00 - 16.00

Conference Room
11/F
Centennial Campus
The University of
Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government is currently considering options for relevant legislation in response to a 2013 Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal judgment on transgender marriage (*W v The Registrar of Marriages*). After the court's decision, the government established an Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition (IWG) which has recently produced a Consultation Paper examining different types of gender recognition schemes and possible arguments for and against the adoption of particular models for Hong Kong.

In order to contribute to this exercise, **The Centre for Comparative and Public Law and its Human Rights Programme**, in collaboration with the **Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission**, are hosting a forum with professional and academic experts and advocates, including members of Hong Kong's transgender community, to discuss the Consultation Paper. The outcome of the event will be submitted to the IWG and thus inform and hopefully positively contribute to a possible future Gender Recognition scheme.

SCHEDULE

- 9.00-9.10 **WELCOME REMARKS**
Michael Hor, Dean, Faculty of Law, HKU
Kelley Loper, Director, Centre for Comparative and Public Law, HKU
- 9.10-10.00 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**
Stephen Whittle, Manchester Metropolitan University
- 10.00-11.30 **KEY ISSUES, INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL LEGAL PERSPECTIVES**
Moderator: Kelley Loper, HKU
Commentator: Stephen Whittle, MMU
Peter Reading, Legal Counsel, EOC Hong Kong
Michael Vidler, Solicitor, Vidler & Co. Solicitors
Patricia Ho, Partner, Daly & Associates
- 11.45-13.00 **TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY VOICES**
Moderator: Azan Marwah, Barrister and Mediator, Gilt Chambers
Robin Bradbeer, Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors at The Professional Commons, former Professor at CityU
Joanne Leung, Chairperson, Transgender Resource Centre HK
Kaspar Wan, Filmmaker and Founder of Gender Empowerment
Brenda Alegre, Lecturer of the Sexuality & Gender : Diversity & Society Course (SGDS), HKU
Hun Law, Bodybuilder and Lecturer, HKU
- 14.15-15.45 **GENDER RECOGNITION: PERSPECTIVES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS**
Moderator: Marco Wan, Faculty of Law, HKU
Suen Yiu Tung, Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and Associate Director, Gender Research Centre, CUHK
Fern Ngai, Chief Executive Officer, Community Business
Sam Winter, Psychologist and Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University
- 15.45-16.00 **CLOSING REMARKS**
Alfred Chan, Chairperson, Equal Opportunities Commission

With

PROFESSOR STEPHEN WHITTLE

Manchester Metropolitan University, UK



STEPHEN WHITTLE OBE, PhD, DLaws hc, FAcSS, MA, LLB, BA is Professor of Equalities Law at Manchester Metropolitan University.

In 1975 Stephen set up the UK's first local trans support group in Manchester, and transitioned to living as Stephen. Having lost many jobs because of being trans he decided things would only change if trans people understood the law. After qualifying in law in 1990 and in 1992, Stephen became a co-founder of Press For Change (PFC), the UK's transgender lobbying group. PFC fought cases at the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights to gain legal recognition for Trans people in the Gender Recognition Act 2004. In 2010, PFC also achieved full protection for trans people under the UK's Equality Laws.

Stephen has been an advisor to the UK, Irish, Italian, Japanese and South African governments, the Council of Europe and the European Commission. He advises lawyers, regularly writes court briefs, or is an expert witness in courts across the world. In 2015, he was appointed special advisor to the *Parliamentary Women & Equalities Committee* Inquiry into Transgender Equality. Stephen has received many awards for his academic and voluntary work, including a Lambda Literary Award as co-editor (with Susan Stryker) of *"The Transgender Studies Reader"* and The Stonewall Award from the American Bar Association in recognition of his contribution to "removing barriers and championing diversity for the LGBT community, both within the legal profession and impacting the greater human universe." In 2005, he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE, 2005) in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for his work with the British Government on transgender rights. In 2016, he was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Stephen and his wife Sarah married in 2005 after Stephen gained legal recognition as a man, but have been partners for 39 years. They have 4 children.



Please click [HERE](#) for online registration to reserve a place, or scan the QR code.

For more information about the Consultation Paper and making a submission, click [HERE](#).

Deadline for all submissions is 31 October 2017.

For inquiries, please email Lili Ullmann at ulili@hku.hk.



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AT THE FACULTY OF LAW, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



平等機會委員會
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