

## Responding to the Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition

### Response Guideline

#### 1. Response method:

- a. Recommend using computer document, because it is convenient for storage and sending through email.
- b. If response is written by hand, and meant to be sent by fax or postal mail, please reserve enough time to avoid delay.
- c. No matter what method you use, please leave a copy, since there will be a Part II of the consultation.

#### 2. Points for attention in responding:

- a. Response could be sent and represented by an individual or an organization (i.e. school, parish, congregation or association)
- b. For convenience and effectiveness in drafting the response, you may refer to the sample letter attached, and take note to the following principles:
  - i. Consider the Church's stance. The Church is fundamentally against the legislation. The Church does not support advocacy for gender recognition, but choose to approach the persons experiencing gender dysphoria with care, tender love, compassion, and mercifulness. The Church supports them, accompany them, and provide them with realistic and positive support as far as possible. The Church does not wish to see these brothers and sisters making decisions that would harm themselves.
  - ii. The writer should refrain from direct copying. When sourcing content from the sample, please change the wordings, incorporate original comment from yourself or your organization, in order to avoid identical responses from different individuals or organizations.(\*)
  - iii. Response by organization should be reviewed and approved by the principal of the organization.
  - iv. Use of words should be appropriate and etiquette be observed.

- c. When sending out the response, please request for confidentiality in the response document and the email. If not, the response document and the author's identity might be publicized.

#### 3. Salutation of the response document:

The Secretary,

Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition,

5th Floor, East Wing, Justice Place,

18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong

Email: [iwggr@doj.gov.hk](mailto:iwggr@doj.gov.hk)

Fax: (852) 3918 4799

4. Content of the response should have two parts:
  - a. Request extending the consultation period to at least March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
  - b. Respond to the first issue only.
  
5. Letterhead of the response document:
  - a. Name of the organization or the individual and valid contact information
  
6. Reference: During internal forum on September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Diocese will provide limited copies of the full text of the consultation document or the executive summary. You may contact the Inter-departmental Working Group for more printed copies, or read and download them online: <http://www.iwggr.gov.hk/eng/publications.html>
  
7. For telephone enquiry: Inter-departmental Working Group contact number: (852) 3918 4033

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(\*) Choice of words could have a multitude of options. For example, "disagree" could be written as: "absolutely disagree", "strongly disagree", "should not agree", "definitely not agree", "will not agree", or "objection" etc.

**In summary, the Church's stance to the current consultation is a clear NO and this stance will not change.**