**“3-minute Concept” Animated Video Clips Series:**

**The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**

**Subtitles**

3-minute Concept

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Life and Society (Secondary 1-3)

Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section

Curriculum Development Institute

Education Bureau,

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The International Convention on

the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)

was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1965.

It aims at encouraging understanding, inclusion and respect

among different ethnic groups

so that everyone can be treated equally.

In general,

racial discrimination means treating someone

less favourably or even unequally

because of their race, colour, nationality or religion.

The main principles of ICERD include:

respect for the dignity inherent in all people;

equality; protection of basic human rights and freedoms;

non-discrimination;

and provision of special care and assistance to those in need.

On 10 June 1997,

the Chinese government informed

the Secretary-General of the United Nations in writing that

ICERD would continue to apply to

the Hong Kong Special Adminstrative Region

effective from 1 July 1997.

What constitutes racial discrimination?

For example, a South Asian man who can speak fluent Cantonese

and has a Chinese name

applies for a sales job by phone and is invited for an interview.

When he shows up at the interview,

the person in charge sees his appearance

and falsely claims that the position has been filled,

and does not offer him an interview.

However, she continues to interview other Chinese applicants.

In this way, the South Asian man does not get

the respect and fair treatment he deserves.

This situation could be regarded as racial discrimination.

As another example, a food packaging factory has a rule

that employees are not allowed to keep beards

for hygiene and safety reasons.

However, if the health and safety standards

can be met by wearing a mask,

there is no good reason for the rule.

The rule could be regarded as indirect discrimination

against ethnic minorities with beard-growing traditions.

The rule could constitute a form of racial discrimination.

As Hong Kong is an international city,

people from all over the world come here for a visit,

to work and to live.

If we can build a society with no racial discrimination

and where everyone is treated equally,

our society will be more harmonious, stable and cohesive.

It will also encourage the diversified development of cultures

and strengthen the vitality of the Hong Kong economy.

Under ICERD, the Race Discrimination Ordinance

was passed in Hong Kong in 2009.

The Ordinance makes it unlawful to discriminate against,

harass or insult persons because of their race.

The Equal Opportunities Commission also

monitors the implementation of the Ordinance

and handles written complaints from the public.

The aim is to enhance equal opportunities and harmony

among people from different ethnic groups.

So, how do we get along with people of different races?

We should learn more about

the lifestyles and traditional customs of people of different races

to understand them better.

We should show respect for their ways of life,

languages, customs, etc.

We should also pay attention to

and reflect on whether we have

any stereotypical views of, or prejudices against,

people of other races.

We should learn to accept people from different backgrounds,

look for things we have in common while embracing the differences,

in order to achieve racial inclusion.

Reflection Question

As students, how can you work towards racial inclusion in your daily lives?