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## **Stop Violence, Respond to the Calls of the Society for Social Peace**

Against Child Abuse is deeply saddened by the current social unrest with a series of escalating and out of control violent incidents lasting more than two months. Safety of children and the future development of Hong Kong are our major concerns.

In various media, we saw arrests in the MTR and outside school campuses where children, teenagers and parents were terrified or physically hurt. They were screaming in shock, injured or beaten on the head, bleeding.

Children and adolescents should be protected from any form of violence. Excessive force is not necessary and should be avoided in arresting children or adolescents suspected of violating the law when they are subdued and not in defiance. A heavy blow to the head can lead to serious consequences or it may be fatal.

Against Child Abuse urges the Government and all sectors of the community to observe the best interests of children. Once again, we strongly make the following appeals:

1. All children have the right to protection. We condemn any form of violence;
2. Respect the rights of the arrested young persons, and to comply with the law including respecting their rights to be treated with humanity, be able to stay in contact with their families and to have prompt legal assistance;
3. The Government to respond to the voices of the community and to immediately engage different sectors in a direct dialogue with a view to resolving differences in a rational, peaceful and honest manner;
4. The Government to set up an Independent Commission of Inquiry to examine the root causes of the origination of conflicts, violence, and the social unrest, and to set up appropriate policies and measures accordingly.

Against Child Abuse  
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