



Against Child Abuse
防止虐待兒童會

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**Against Child Abuse's Response to the First Five-Year Plan for Economic and
Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
(2026-2030) and the Chief Executive's 2026 Policy Address
(6 October 2026)**

Founded in 1979, Against Child Abuse (ACA) is dedicated to promoting a caring, non-violent environment in which children can grow and develop to their full potential. We provide services in prevention, crisis intervention, treatment, training and advocacy.

ACA's earlier position paper, Five Wishes for the 2026 Policy Address, called for coordinated and sustained reforms across legislation, institutions, education, regulation and support services. It identified persistent child sexual abuse, "Causing or Allowing the Death or Serious Harm of a Child or Vulnerable Adult Offence", risks within organisations, sexual grooming, online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and corporal punishment as priority concerns.

Against Child Abuse welcomes and supports the measures proposed in the First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2026-2030) ("Five-Year Plan") and the Chief Executive's 2026 Policy Address ("Policy Address"), which include the continuous enhancement of the child protection system, the strengthening of family support services under the principles of "family-based" and "caregiver-based," enhance preventive efforts and foster family resilience, as well as the expansion of publicity, education, and training on child protection.

ACA's long-standing advocacy and implementation of a three-tiered prevention strategy directly respond to and align with the Government's policy direction: early identification and intervention, stronger professional support, organisational safeguarding, public education, positive parenting, and a shift from crisis response towards prevention and family resilience. We urge the Government to allocate additional resources to advance public education, raise community awareness and reporting of child abuse, strengthen professional training for schools, communities, and child service agencies, and promote positive discipline and parenting education to support parents in addressing challenges through nonviolent means. These measures will further reinforce the primary prevention. In addition, expanding childcare and



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after-school care services to provide flexible and affordable community options, particularly for grassroots and single-parent families, will strengthen other levels of prevention focusing on high-risk families and offering timely intervention to reduce the likelihood of crises.

Moreover, ACA stands at the forefront of child protection in Hong Kong, playing a vital role in advancing child safeguarding measures. We pioneered the study and promotion of Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse as far back as 1997. Building on this foundation, and in response to significant ongoing child protection challenges in society, ACA has intensified its advocacy efforts since 2018. We have worked to raise public awareness and engage policymakers and stakeholders, building the momentum needed for systemic improvements in child protection. This collaborative advocacy was instrumental in paving the way for the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance, which was implemented on 20 January 2026.

The Policy Address affirms that the Government will closely monitor the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance. The Five-Year Plan further sets out the continuous refinement of mechanisms for handling and reporting suspected child abuse cases, together with the strengthening of professional support. ACA welcomes the Government's sustained commitment to child protection and calls for further enhancement of the following measures:

- Professional training: Provide designated professionals with continuous, practical, and cross-disciplinary training to strengthen their safeguarding capacity.
- Resources and support: Ensure that professionals are equipped with adequate resources, supervision, and psychological support to fulfil their reporting duties and child protection responsibilities.
- System review and improvement: Conduct regular reviews of the effectiveness of the Ordinance, referral procedures, and interdepartmental collaboration, with ongoing refinement and optimisation. At the same time, consider expanding the scope of the Ordinance in the future to further extend the child protection safety net.

ACA also welcomes the Five-Year Plan's commitment to review and strengthen support



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and supervision for childcare and related services. This presents an opportunity for the Government to advance ACA's earlier recommendation to promote organisational child protection and safeguarding policies across all child-serving settings.

Such policies should be adapted for schools, childcare centres, residential and out-of-home care services, community centres, tutorial centres, sports organisations, churches and other settings where adults work with children. They should cover safer recruitment, codes of conduct, appropriate boundaries, risk assessment, supervision, accessible complaints and disclosure procedures, incident reporting, and regular review.

A safe childhood requires more than individual programmes. Hong Kong needs a coordinated child protection system that brings together legislation, professional practice, family support, community prevention, organisational accountability, online safety and meaningful participation by children. ACA looks forward to working with the Government and other sectors to turn these commitments into lasting improvements in every child's safety, dignity and healthy development.

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