

ACA News

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Alarm sounded on psychological abuse of children



A concern group warned on Tuesday that people in Hong Kong are too complacent about the problem of children being subjected to psychological abuse, saying it has recently seen an increase in reported cases.

Against Child Abuse said it received some 1,200 enquiries through its hotline over the last financial year, including 214 reports of suspected child abuse – eight percent higher than the year before.

Most of the suspected abuse cases related to physical ill-treatment and more than half involved children aged between three and eight.

The acting director of the group, Donna Wong, said the young age of the suspected victims is linked to growing academic pressure on children at ever earlier stages of their schooling.

She said the group received 20 reports of psychological abuse of children, double the number from the year before.

Wong said this kind of maltreatment can be quite subtle, such as adults intentionally ignoring their kids, or constantly scolding them.

"Psychological abuse is not easy to identify and the impact on children may not appear immediately."

She said the government should consult the public on whether new laws on psychological abuse are needed.

Reference: <http://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1429291-20181120.htm>