

November 13, 2019

### TWF Further Statement on Ongoing Allegations of Sexual Violence in Hong Kong

Further to our repeated letters to the Hong Kong Police and other government bodies advocating for increased measures to protect individuals in Hong Kong against sexual violence, The Women's Foundation remains deeply concerned by ongoing reports around this matter. Any acts of sexual violence concerning any gender are completely unacceptable and all reports should be treated seriously, as well as thoroughly, appropriately and confidentially investigated.

We are greatly disturbed by the public release of information and media commentary by the police in relation to an ongoing investigation concerning a young woman who has filed a complaint of rape by police officers inside Tsuen Wan Police Station.

All those lodging complaints of sexual violence are entitled to have their allegations investigated impartially, professionally and confidentially, irrespective of whom they are making the allegation against. These principles are even more important when allegations are raised against the police who are charged with protecting the public from sexual violence and are responsible for investigating criminal complaints of sexual violence.

Victims of sexual violence face a number of barriers in reporting of allegations. If a victim chooses not to make their allegations public, this right must be respected otherwise it undermines efforts to encourage future victims to come forward and make reports to the police. Public commentary further risks undermining what should be impartial and thorough investigations.

We call for an immediate cessation of any leaks or commentary to the media on active investigations or allegations and call on the police to comply with the requirements under the Hong Kong Police Force's Victims Charter.

To this end, we have again written to the Hong Kong Police and other relevant government bodies to express our serious concerns and provide our counsel. In addition to the above, we have urged them to conduct thorough, impartial and independent investigations of all incidents.

Our previous recommendations to the Hong Kong Police can be found [here](#). We must do all that we can to ensure that the safety, dignity and human rights of all residents – particularly women and girls – are fully respected.

#### Enquiries

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