**Chosen Power (People First Hong Kong)**

**Submission on**

**Draft Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization,**

**including in emergencies**

**July 4, 2022**

**Chosen Power (People First Hong Kong**) is a self-advocacy organization in Hong Kong SAR. It is founded in 1995 by self-advocates with intellectual differences (intellectual disabilities) and self-advocates with different learning characteristics. We are the Associate member of Inclusion International and Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities.

**The submission is based on**:

1. Moving people out of institutions, the easy read version;
2. Draft guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies.

**Online and onsite briefing and consultation sessions for**:

1. Self-advocates, parents, parents, supporters and Easy Read audit team of Chosen Power;
2. Community allies of self-advocates of persons with intellectual differences, psychosocial disabilities, parents’ organizations, professionals and academics.

**Overall Comments**

1. We welcome the Easy Read version: Moving people out of institution.

It is our first time to have such Easy Read consultative paper to enable us to take part in the consultation process. This is certainly a concrete example of respect and information accessibility. Even our community allies welcome this Easy Read version for quick understanding of the concern and issues.

1. We appreciate the recognition of issues of legal capacity and decision making support have been one of the key elements for upholding our dignity, independence, autonomy and freedom of choice.
2. We are in full support of deinstitutionalization and the guidelines is comprehensive. It is a Guideline for EVERYONE.
3. We believe that the Guidelines can serve as a good direction for governments to have TOTAL reform in all aspects as to support we, persons with different abilities and families, to live in our choice of community as full citizens.
4. We think that the Guidelines can only serve as a long term direction but not necessarily can be realized in every country and city.
5. We are a bit worry to have all prisons to be closed. If so, what would be a better option?
6. Our parents share the views of the Guidelines that the government should take every measure and responsibility to close down all institutions. And yet parents, especially for those aged parents, are very concern what if the new services and supports lacks the know-how staff and resources!
7. We welcome the different tangible support to the families.
8. Lots of professionals and academics are still in the comfort zone of the medical model way of teaching, research and guiding modes of service delivery, how can the Guidelines get through such legal professionals, scholars and practitioners?!

**Suggestions for Improvement**

General Suggestions

1. Definition of institution: add in living in family but have all sorts of controls by family members.
2. The Guidelines regional consultations are very inaccessible:
   1. No easy read information for us to read beforehand;
   2. Time for sharing and discussion is NOT favourable for us. We need more time to speak and express.
3. The lack of official Chinese language full text for comprehensive understanding. For such international consultation all UN official languages text should be provided.
4. Great to have the Easy Read Version of the Guidelines. But it is only ready halfway of the consultation period. EZ read readers do NOT have enough time for preparation of consultation and write up submission. Best to provide enough time for fair consultation.
5. The Easy Read Version can also provide questions for us to review and consider.
6. Provide different forms of submission other than written text.

**Easy Read Version Suggestions**

1. Concepts:
   1. Human rights are innate to all human beings. They are protected by law. Rights should not be granted by law. Please check the Rights explanation on page 3.
   2. For Gender and Gender orientation, please provide explanation
   3. Please use the expression: persons with disabilities HAVE rights.
   4. The concept of family and gender needs to be up to date.
2. Overall
   1. Lots of key concepts and suggestions are NOT included in the text. It is too simplified. It is very important for us to be fully informed so we can give our ideas and suggestions.
   2. Have different layout for different sections
   3. Avoid using bullet points, please use 1, 2, 3, 4 for reader’s easy reference.
   4. As an UN document, representation of ethnicity, especially Asians needs to be included and diverse enough.
   5. Wordings need to be universal to different countries.
   6. Consistency use of pronoun can help better understanding.
   7. Consistency of use of key characters, icons can help.
   8. Best to have the illustrations to illustrate the key words, concepts and actions.

For detail suggestions, please refer to the 2 attached files:

1. Major for the text
2. Major for the illustrations.

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