

*Comments On Consultation Papers-*  
**REGULATION OF MEDIA INTRUSION**

The members of the Hong Kong Women Professionals and Entrepreneurs Association are of the view that some measures of regulations are overdue to control unscrupulous media intrusion into the privacy of individuals. We agree with the proposals of the Law Reform Committee of Hong Kong to resort to legislation to achieve the objective, so long as public interest and freedom of the press are given prime considerations.

We welcome the establishment of the proposed Press Council in the regulation of media intrusion. We commend on the Law Commission for a well thought out entity complete with provisions from establishment to appeal, in particular with power to fine offenders to ensure compliance.

We propose the following suggestions for your consideration:-

1. We would suggest the increase in representation of the press to at least 60% as a wider representation would mean greater involvement of the profession, and thus the greater likelihood of compliance as the primary purpose of the legislation is to control such bodies.
2. We would suggest that the Press Council be empowered to oversee all venues of communications including television, radio as well as the press.
3. We are for the idea of licensing of reporters although we realize that most of the new reporters, like real estate agents, are rather transient whilst the long timers tend to have higher ethical standards. The idea of having to apply for a licence would ensure that those reporters would at least be aware of the existence codes of practice by which they would have to abide.

As there is a certain extent of overlapping between the recommendations for media intrusion and civil liability for invasion of privacy, care must be given to ensure consistency for the proposed codes of practice and proposed legislation. Further consistency must be held between the new legislation and existing legislation as well as the basic law.