

## Overview of Key Achievements in Promoting Local Women's Rights and Interests

Year	Event
1921	• The University of Hong Kong admitted the first female student
1932	• The first Infant Welfare Clinic, later renamed as Maternal and Child Health Centre, was established
1938	• 'Mui tsai' system (where girls were adopted or sold into domestic servitude) was abolished
1949	• A female police sub-inspector was appointed for the first time
1966	• A female Legislative Councillor was appointed for the first time
1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marriage reform and related ordinances were enacted: concubinage was prohibited and women's right to inheritance was recognised</li> <li>• Six years' free and universal basic education for girls and boys was introduced</li> <li>• The Intestates' Estate Ordinance providing both sons and daughters with equal rights to their parents' estates was enacted</li> </ul>
1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Married Person Status Ordinance, enabling married women to hold property, sue and be sued, was enacted</li> <li>• The Matrimonial Causes Ordinance, enabling both husband and wife to petition for divorce on the ground of an irretrievable breakdown of marriage, was enacted</li> </ul>
1973	• The Offences Against the Person (Amendment) Ordinance, making abortion legal if two doctors agree that continuation of a pregnancy will cause greater physical or psychological harm to a woman, was enacted
1975	• Female civil servants were entitled to equal pay as their male counterparts
1976	• A female Executive Councillor was appointed for the first time
1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine years' free and universal basic education was introduced</li> <li>• The Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, preserving anonymity of victims in rape cases, was enacted</li> <li>• Legislation was enacted to prohibit solicitation for prostitution, but sexual act between a prostitute and her customer was not made illegal</li> </ul>
1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymity for victims under the Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance was extended to indecent assault cases</li> <li>• A woman was appointed to head a Government department for the first time</li> </ul>
1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Employment (Amendment) Ordinance was enacted to provide for 10 weeks' maternity leave for female employees, during which they are entitled to two-thirds of their normal wages</li> <li>• Female civil servants were entitled to the same terms and conditions of service as their male counterparts after marriage</li> </ul>
1982	• Five women were elected in the first District Board Election
1984	• Five female disabled athletes in Hong Kong won gold medals for the first time in the Paralympic Games
1986	• The Domestic Violence Ordinance was enacted to enable a victim to apply for an injunction to get protection from molestation or to exclude the abuser from the matrimonial home
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A female Judge of the District Court was appointed for the first time</li> <li>• A female officer was appointed at Secretary level in the Government for the first time</li> </ul>

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1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Inland Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance was enacted to provide for separate taxation for married women and remove the clause in which definition of "individual" excludes a wife unless living apart from her husband</li> </ul>
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A female candidate was elected in the first Legislative Council direct election</li> <li>The Legislative Council set up an "ad hoc" group to study the need for establishing a women's commission</li> </ul>
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Legislative Council passed a motion urging the Government to extend the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to Hong Kong</li> </ul>
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A female Chief Secretary was appointed for the first time</li> </ul>
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The New Territories Land (Exemption) Ordinance was enacted to provide female indigenous residents the right to inherit land in the New Territories in the absence of a will</li> </ul>
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sex Discrimination Ordinance was enacted to render it unlawful to discriminate against any person on the grounds of sex, marital status or pregnancy, and to outlaw sexual harassment</li> <li>The Fourth World Women Conference of the UN was held in Beijing, at which the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action were endorsed, and many of the women's organisations in Hong Kong also attended</li> </ul>
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Equal Opportunities Commission was established</li> <li>The CEDAW was extended to Hong Kong</li> <li>A female athlete of Hong Kong won a gold medal in the Olympic Games for the first time</li> </ul>
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Family Status Discrimination Ordinance was enacted to make it unlawful to discriminate against a person who has family status (responsibility for the care of an immediate family member)</li> <li>A female Secretary for Justice was appointed for the first time</li> <li>A female was elected as the President of the Provisional Legislative Council for the first time</li> </ul>
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A female was elected as the President of the Legislative Council for the first time</li> <li>The HKSAR Government submitted its first report under CEDAW</li> </ul>
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UN CEDAW Committee held a hearing on the first CEDAW report submitted by the HKSAR Government and suggested the HKSAR Government to set up a central mechanism on women issues</li> </ul>
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chief Secretary for Administration announced the Government's intention to set up the Women's Commission</li> <li>The Evidence Ordinance was amended to abrogate the corroboration rules in sexual offences</li> </ul>
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Women's Commission was established</li> </ul>
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Crimes Ordinance was amended to state expressly that marital rape is a criminal offence</li> <li>On the advice of the Women's Commission, the Government gradually applied gender mainstreaming into various policy areas, i.e. to integrate gender perspectives and needs in legislation, policies or programmes</li> </ul>
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The HKSAR Government submitted its second report under CEDAW</li> <li>On the suggestion of the Women's Commission, the Government promulgated a working target of at least 25% of each gender for the purpose of appointments to advisory and statutory bodies</li> </ul>
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A HKSAR Delegation attended the Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing</li> </ul>