

社評
雙語道

加強打擊 增加支援 防止虐兒

Stepped-up Efforts and Support Needed to Combat Child Abuse

原文

警方公布，今年首8個月接獲780宗虐兒個案，按年升近七成。專家認為，新冠疫情下經濟下滑，家庭問題增多，有家長或發洩個人情緒及壓力在子女身上，是虐兒案上升主因。警方加強打擊虐兒可以治標，而治本之策，一是政府與社會專業機構合作，為基層家庭提供兒童照管等實質性社區支援服務、為失業家庭提供特別津貼；二是全社會強化保護兒童意識，及早識別和介入虐兒個案；三是盡早立法，把強制通報懷疑虐兒個案列為法定責任。

根據立法會今年9月發布的資料，從2016年至2020年，本港虐兒個案皆在千宗上下，去年虐兒個案略有下降，專家指可能與學生因疫情未上學、而致隱性虐兒案未被發現有關。而警方公布最新數字顯示，虐兒案按年大增七成，再度敲響本港虐兒問題的警鐘。

保護兒童在受父母、法定監護人或其他任何負責照管兒童的人照料時，不致

受一切形式的身心摧殘、傷害或凌辱、忽視或照料不周、虐待或剝削，是聯合國《兒童權利公約》所保障的基本權利，香港不同法例皆訂明虐兒行為的刑事罪行，本港作為國際大都市和法治社會，必須對虐兒案零容忍，警方須加大執法、檢控力度，阻嚇虐兒行為。

阻止虐兒案上升，預防勝於打擊。為基層家庭提供實質支援，解決其切身困難，構建和諧家庭，是政府和社會共同責任。本港兒童託管服務不足，多年未有實質改善。新冠疫情下，本港中小學及幼兒園普遍停課在家上網課，令託管服務缺乏問題更加嚴重，加上本港失業家庭急增，經濟壓力及情緒焦慮下，致部分家長向子女發洩負面情緒，致虐兒案上升。政府要正視問題，增撥資源提升社區託管兒童能力，並考慮為失業家庭提供更多特別津貼，切實解決基層家庭實際問題，改善虐兒案發生的家庭環境。

更重要的是，政府要完善防止虐兒案發生的機制。目前教育局已實施缺課通

報機制，要求學校必須在學生連續缺課的第七天，向教育局報告缺課個案；社署等去年4月實施新指引，清楚列明處理懷疑受虐兒童個案的識別、通報、即時保護及跟進程序，教育局亦已檢視及更新相關學校指引，政府亦加強了前線專業人員培訓，提升其及早識別和支援受虐兒童的能力。面對虐兒案大幅上升，政府有必要檢討相關機制，增撥資源、加強培訓、彌補不足，令機制發揮保護兒童的應有效用。

另外，更要盡早立法強制舉報虐兒行為。目前全球至少70個地方把強制通報懷疑虐兒個案列為法定責任，聯合國兒童權利委員會早在2013年已提議特區政府設立強制舉報機制，法改會已於2019年提出相關立法建議，立法會福利事務委員會今年5月重申應立法規定通報虐兒個案。政府應加快相關立法的進度，為防止、打擊虐兒提供更多法律保障。

（摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2021-10-11）



●專家認為，新冠疫情下經濟下滑，家庭問題增多，有家長或發洩個人情緒及壓力在子女身上，是虐兒案上升主因。圖為家庭暴力示意圖。網上圖片

譯文

The Police announced that they had received 780 child abuse cases in the first eight months of this year. The number showed a 70% year-on-year increase. According to experts, family problems arise as a result of the economic downturn amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Some parents take out their frustrations and stresses on their children, causing a rise in the number of child abuse cases. The Police may help solve the problem temporarily by stepping up efforts to combat child abuse, but in order to address the root cause of it, firstly, the Government must work with social professional institutions to provide substantial community support services, such as child care services, to grassroots families, as well as special grants to jobless families; secondly, the Government needs to raise public awareness on child protection to ensure early identification and intervention of child abuse cases; thirdly, the Government should legislate as soon as possible and make it a statutory duty for the public to report any suspected

child abuse cases.

According to the information published by the Legislative Council this September, from 2016 to 2020, there were about 1,000 child abuse cases in Hong Kong. The number fell slightly last year. Experts said that the suspension of school classes may have led to a delay in the discovery of concealed child abuse cases. The latest figures released by the Police showed that the number of child abuse cases went up significantly by 70% year-on-year, sounding the alarm again about the issue of child abuse in Hong Kong.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is a child's basic right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, while in the care of parents, legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child. It is stated in the laws of Hong Kong that child abuse is a criminal offence. As an international city upholding the rule of law, Hong Kong should have zero tolerance

for child abuse cases. The Police should strengthen law enforcement and prosecution efforts to deter child abuse.

To stop child abuse, it is better to prevent it than to combat it. It is a collective responsibility of the Government and society to provide concrete support to grassroots families to help them solve their difficulties and live in harmony with their family members. Hong Kong has seen a lack of child care services, but the situation has not been improved over the years. Due to the pandemic, local primary and secondary schools and kindergartens have suspended physical classes and required students to attend online classes at home. This has aggravated the problem of insufficient child care services. Given the rapid growth of jobless households, parents who are under financial pressure and emotional distress may take out their negative feelings on their children, causing an increase in the number of child abuse cases in the city. The Government must look into the problem and allocate additional resources to enhance community child care services. It

should also consider providing special financial aid to jobless families in order to solve the difficulties of grassroots families and improve the home environments of the abused children.

More importantly, the Government needs to improve the existing mechanism for preventing child abuse. Currently, there is a reporting mechanism for student absentees put in place by the Education Bureau. It requires schools to report to the Bureau on the seventh day of a student's continuous absence in cases where students fail to attend school. Last April, the Social Welfare Department implemented a new guideline, which sets out clearly the procedures for identifying, reporting, as well as taking immediate protection actions and follow-up actions for suspected child abuse cases. The Bureau has reviewed and updated the guideline for schools, and the Government has also strengthened the training of frontline professionals to enhance their ability to identify and provide support to abused children at an early stage. In the face of the significant in-

crease in the city's child abuse cases, it is necessary for the Government to review the relevant mechanism, allocate additional resources, strengthen training and make up for the inadequacies, in order for the mechanism to play an effective role in protecting children from abuse.

Moreover, it is necessary to legislate as soon as possible for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. Currently, at least 70 jurisdictions around the world have made it a statutory duty to report any suspected child abuse cases. Back in 2013, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child already recommended the SAR Government to establish a mandatory reporting mechanism. In 2019, the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong put forward relevant legislative proposals. This May, the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services reaffirmed the need to legislate the mandatory reporting of child abuse cases. The Government must speed up the progress of legislation in order to provide more legal protection to prevent and combat child abuse.

中國特使對美媒：不如你用中文問

恒大譯站

隔星期一見報

在蘇格蘭格拉斯哥舉行的《聯合國氣候變化框架公約》第二十六次締約方大會（簡稱COP26）剛剛結束，各國達成協議，簽訂了《格拉斯哥氣候公約》，為遏止全球暖化邁出了重要的一步。在會議進行期間發生了一段小插曲。中國氣候變化事務特使解振華在11月6日參加了一場國際記者會，他在回答記者的提問時，美聯社記者突然打斷他的發言，問他能不能直接用英文回答問題。

換上經驗較淺的官員，也許會立時不知所措，但解振華可不是省油的燈。他不慌不忙地回應說：「不如你用中文提問」，立時秒殺美聯社記者，現場更傳出笑聲。原來高級政府官員在國際會議上均以母語發言，再交由傳譯員翻譯成外語，不僅僅是語言問題，更是政治問題。專業的傳譯員可以確保與會各方溝通無間，更有助本國代表團成員昂步昂首，屹立於國際舞台上。筆者相信這位美聯社記者今次肯定上了寶貴的一課。

那麼會議傳譯（conference interpreting）這個專業究竟在何時出現呢？在第一次世界大戰爆發以前，法語是通用的外交語言，歐洲國家進行政治談判，各國代表都可以說法語，根本不需要傳譯員。第一次世界大戰結束，戰勝國於1919年舉行巴黎和會，情況便開始改變。當時美國總統威爾遜（Woodrow Wilson）和英國首相勞合·喬治（David Lloyd George）贊成以英語作為巴黎和會的第二種官方語言，第一代會議傳譯員便應運而生。



●解振華

在巴黎和會結束後成立的國際組織，包括國際聯盟（League of Nations）、常設國際法院（Permanent Court of International Justice）和國際勞工組織（International Labour Organization），均同時採用英語和法語作為官方語。聯合國在第二次世界大戰結束後成立，中文、英文、法文、俄文、西班牙文和阿拉伯語便是聯合國的官方語言，其後更先後成為工作語言。各國與會代表在聯合國大會和安全理事會發言時，只要他們使用的是這六種語言的其中之一，聯合國便會提供即時傳譯服務。

這裏順帶一提，上文提到的記者會原定要進行45分鐘，到回答完最後一條問題時，已經花了超過兩小時。也許大家會問：如果所有與會者都使用英語的話，那就不用傳譯，會議時間可能會減半，豈不更有效率？各位不可不知，即便與會者能說英語，也不代表他們精通英語，在這麼重要的國際場合，我們還是需要專業的傳譯員提供精準的翻譯，更何況政府官員在國際會議上使用母語，關乎國家體面。這也是一種「話語權」：選擇用哪一種語言說話的權利。我只不過是個普通的中國人，也許英語說得比你好，可不代表我要為了遷就你而說英語。

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趣談英語

逢星期一見報

BRITISH COUNCIL

LearnEnglish Teens

Writing skills practice: An invitation

Look at the email and do the exercises to practise and improve your writing skills.

Preparation

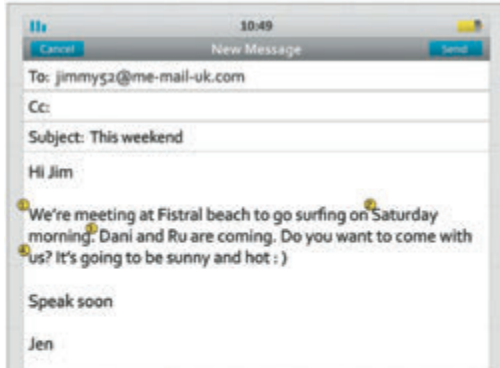
Match the names of punctuation marks with symbols from the top.

- | | ! | ? | . | , | A |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. full stop | | | | | |
| 2. question mark | | | | | |
| 3. comma | | | | | |
| 4. capital letter | | | | | |
| 5. exclamation mark | | | | | |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentence.

1. _____ (Jen / Jim) sent the email.
2. Jen is going surfing with her friends _____ (at the weekend / after school).
3. They are meeting at _____ (the furf club / beach).
4. Jen thinks the weather will be _____ (bad / good).
5. _____ (Two / Four) other people are going surfing with Jen.
6. They are meeting _____ (before / after) lunch.



Top Tips for writing

1. Start a sentence with a capital letter.
2. Use capital letters for days of the week.
3. Finish a sentence with a full stop.
4. Finish a question with a question mark.

Discussion

What do you usually do when you meet up with your friends?

Answers
Preparation 1. 1. 2. 2 3. 3, 4. A 5. 1
1. Jen 2. at the weekend 3. the beach 4. good 5. Two
6. before

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