



工聯會倡2027年讓兒童告別劏房

HKFTU advocates eliminating sub-divided units for children by 2027

原文

下文摘錄自2023年8月30日香港《文匯報》：

香港有不少學童因居於劏房，長期在狹窄及惡劣環境下做功課，妨礙健康成長，也影響身心發展。目前全港約4萬劏房居民是18歲以下兒童，工聯會推算，平均每五個劏房戶，就有一戶是育有未成年子女。工聯會為此建議特區政府未來幾年集中資源，重點處理劏房兒童面臨的問題，爭取在2027年初步讓兒童「告別劏房」。工聯會立法會議員鄧家彪建議剛柔並濟，一方面立法禁止有建築安全隱患的劏房，另一方面增加公營房屋供應，讓有子女的家庭優先「上樓」或分配「簡約公屋」或過渡屋。目前全港有超過22萬人居於劏房，涉及約10萬戶，當中約4萬名劏房居民是18歲以下兒童。工聯會近日邀請多名不同領域專家，舉行「告別劏房」研討會，就劏房兒童的問題集思廣益探討解決方案。鄧家彪在研討會上表示，香港作為一個富裕城

市，住屋問題是很多社會問題的癥結所在，「住屋難、住得細、租金貴」均為公眾主要關注的議題，而隨着社會進入由治及興階段，「告別劏房」是香港未來必然會達到的目標，惟實現目標需要確切的政策支持，亦需要時間表。

他認為，制定時間表首先應聚焦於保護兒童的角度。針對目前正居於劏房的兩萬多戶家庭，以他所接觸的劏房家庭經驗所見，大部分家庭入住劏房均非出於自願，而是經濟條件限制，「政府、社會集中所有資源，幫助這兩萬多戶家庭，不要讓他們住劏房，過渡性房屋也好、『簡約公屋』也好，要鼓勵、引導他們住在有合理居住面積的地方。」

他建議，「告別劏房」時間表應分為兩個階段，2023年至2025年的首階段，政府應設立劏房資料庫，收集所有育有未成年子女的劏房家庭住址，相信有關資料並不難獲得，因為劏房兒童會就讀學校，可能會申請書簿津貼，家長亦很可能已申請公屋和綜援，政府有各種渠道了解到他

們的境況，關鍵是政府是否有決心整合資料。

此外，現有執法部門應優先對育有子女的劏房進行巡查執法，若單位有安全隱患、不合法，屋宇署有權發出取締令，其他部門亦應在租務管制、滙收水電費等條例上積極調查。

至於2025年至2027年為第二階段，鄧家彪估計，屆時約3萬個「簡約公屋」單位及兩萬個過渡性房屋單位基本已經落成，在單位供應充裕之下，育有子女的劏房家庭可完成遷居。「可能有比較細節的問題，比如有人擔心搬完又搬，過渡屋沒辦法住到上樓，或者跨區搬遷，子女轉校問題等，這幾年政府需要想清楚，如何做好配套，讓劏房戶願意搬過去。」

工聯會早前曾提交「告別劏房」首輪報告，當中提到希望政府立法禁止劣質劏房；對於有16歲以下成員的劏房家庭，亦應設置限時條款，租約不得超過兩年。

鄧家彪解釋，工聯會下月將提交新一輪報告，對前份報告的部分內容提出具體建議，



◆圖為香港有不少學童因居於劏房，長期在狹窄及惡劣環境下做功課，影響身心發展。

資料圖片

「比如什麼是劣質劏房，我們可能設立一個負面清單，包括結構安全、防水、最低面積標準等。」具體標準仍有待進一步調研，他舉例，美國紐約州要求單人居住面積不得小於80平方呎，韓國要求約為70平方呎，香港標準可參照上述數據訂立。

譯文

Many children in Hong Kong live in sub-divided units and have to do their homework in a cramped and poor environment for a long time, which hinders their healthy growth and affects their physical and mental development. At present, about 40,000 residents of sub-divided units in Hong Kong are children under the age of 18. According to the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (HKFTU) estimation, on average, one out of every five households in sub-divided units has underage children. In this regard, FTU suggests that the HKSAR Government should focus its resources in the next few years on tackling the problems faced by children living in sub-divided units to enable children to "say goodbye to sub-divided units" initially by 2027. TANG Ka-piu, Legislative Councillor of the HKFTU, suggested that the Government should adopt a balanced approach by, on the one hand, legislating to prohibit sub-divided units with potential building safety hazards, and, on the other hand, increasing the supply of public housing, to allow families with children to be allocated public housing units or transitional housing units with priority.

At present, more than 220,000 people live in sub-divided units in Hong Kong, involving about 100,000 households, of which about 40,000 sub-divided unit occupants are children under 18. Re-

cently, the HKFTU invited experts from different fields to hold a seminar on "Goodbye to Subdivided Units" to explore solutions to the problem of children living in sub-divided units.

At the seminar, Tang Ka Piu said that as an affluent city, Hong Kong's housing problem is the crux of many social problems. "Difficulty in housing, poor accommodation and high rent" are the public's significant concerns. As society enters the governance and development phase, "ending sub-divided units" is a goal that Hong Kong will achieve in the future. Still, realising the dream requires concrete policy support and a timetable.

In his view, the timetable should first focus on protecting children. Regarding the 20,000-odd families currently living in sub-divided units, his experience with families residing in sub-divided units shows that most are living in sub-divided units not out of their own volition but due to financial constraints. "The Government and the community should focus all resources on helping these 20,000-odd families, to prevent them from living in sub-divided units, and to encourage and guide them to live in places with a reasonable living space, be it in the form of transitional housing or Light Public Housing".

He suggested that the "Goodbye to Subdivided Units" timetable should be divided into two phases. In the first phase, from 2023 to 2025, the Government should set up a database of sub-divided

units and collect the residential addresses of all sub-divided units with minor children. It is not difficult to obtain the relevant information, as children living in sub-divided units will be enrolled in schools and may apply for textbook assistance, and their parents are likely to have already applied for public rental housing and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. There are multiple channels for the Government to learn about their situation, but the key lies in the Government's determination to consolidate the information.

In addition, the existing law-enforcement departments should accord priority to inspecting and taking enforcement actions against sub-divided units with children. Suppose the units pose safety hazards and are illegal. In that case, the Buildings Department is empowered to issue an order to prescribe them, and other departments should also proactively conduct investigations regarding legislation on tenancy control, overcharging of utility charges, and so on.

As for the second phase from 2025 to 2027, Tang estimated that about 30,000 Light Public Housing flats and 20,000 transitional housing flats would have been completed by then, and families with children living in sub-divided units would be able to complete the relocation process given the abundant supply of flats. "There may be more detailed issues, such as some people worrying about moving again and again, not being able to live in

the upper floors of the transitional housing units, or moving across districts, and the problem of their children switching to other schools, etc. In these few years, the Government will need to think clearly about how to provide proper support for sub-divided units tenants so that they can be willing to move to other districts".

The HKFTU has submitted its first round report on "Goodbye to Subdivided Units", in which it expressed the hope that the Government would introduce legislation to prohibit sub-divided units of substandard quality and that time-limited conditions should be imposed on families with members under the age of 16 living in sub-divided units so that the tenancy agreement should not exceed two years.

Tang explained that the HKFTU would submit a new round of reports next month, putting forward specific recommendations on some of the contents of the previous report, "For example, we may set up a negative list of sub-divided units of substandard quality, including those of structural safety, waterproofing, and minimum floor area standard, etc.". Specific standards have yet to be further researched. For example, the State of New York in the United States requires that the living area for a single person should not be less than 80 square feet, while Korea requires about 70 square feet, and Hong Kong's standards can be set with reference to the above figures.

恒大清思

香油非「線香」實為「雲呢拿」

台灣文友W教授某天傳來電郵，問我在寫「果醬蛋糕卷」時，那種叫「香油」的食材其實是什麼。我沒猜出W教授的疑惑，想也沒想，就回答她：「那是vanilla extract啊。」

W教授聽罷，居然鬆一口氣：「好險我有問。台灣的『香油』是芝麻油、大豆油的混合油，差點加進蛋糕裏！你說的在台灣通常會叫做『香草精』，這個合理多了！」

啊，是我大意了。一直盡量保留自己習慣的字詞寫法，卻忘了避免某些字詞的歧義。數天後，我向好友H博士講述這則「香油」笑話，又鬧出新的笑話來。H博士是本地人，他聽到後立即哈哈大笑：「你說『香油』，我以為是『添香油』的『香油』！」把線香、燈油撒在蛋糕裏——何止笑到肚痛，簡直吃到肚痛。

為什麼我會把vanilla extract寫成「香油」呢？我一定曾在什麼地方讀過了。稍稍翻閱手上有關烘焙的資料，先看到俞士蘭在民國時代食譜《俞氏空中烹飪》裏的好幾種寫法，如「香料精」、「香精」和「香草精」等；然後是1960年代香港報紙的烤蛋糕食譜，上面確是「香油」；最後是博益出版社於1990年代出版的中英對照烘焙食譜，把vanilla essence譯成「香油」。比起「香精」，「香油」似乎更有港式味道。

以上三項資料又引出另一線索：這些「香料精」、「香精」、「香草精」或「香油」，可以

兼指vanilla extract和vanilla essence嗎？我們一般會把vanilla，譯成「香草」或「雲呢拿」。Vanilla extract與vanilla essence的分別，在於vanilla extract是包括由vanilla提煉所得材料來製造的調味料；而vanilla essence則是人工調味劑，不含vanilla成分。

據東漢《說文解字》所言，「精，擇也。」以「精」為「擇」，即精挑細擇而得。「油」，是河流的名字；清代《說文解字注》指是「油水」，也說明是某河川名字的意思。清代《康熙字典》曾引晉代《博物志》「積油滿萬石，則自然生火。武帝泰始中，武庫火，積油所致也」一說，解說以「油」為「膏」，這比較貼近「油」的當下常用字義。

這樣看來，「油」實用以形容液體形態，可兼指vanilla extract和vanilla essence；而「精」須經精挑細擇，則與vanilla essence的本意不大相襯了——除非那是一瓶千挑萬選、一滴千金的vanilla essence。

「雲呢拿」的香味，我最喜歡。家裏不只放着雲呢拿香精香油，還有雲呢拿醬(vanilla paste)、雲呢拿糖(vanilla sugar)、雲呢拿碎條(ground vanilla beans)、雲呢拿條(vanilla bean)、雲呢拿味紅茶葉和雲呢拿味手霜。猜想喜歡雲呢拿香味的人不少，有些人喜歡的是茶香、酒香和書香，希望每個人都能常與自己鍾情的，可以讓自己感到快樂的香氣為伴。

俚語雖傳神 誤會從中生

貼地英文

當與人溝通時，中英語有很相似的時候，例如話不投機時，我把說話講完時，對方仍無反應地等我繼續說下去，中文人的反應是「講完」，英文是That's all。不過，這樣的回應均不太有禮貌。在學期之初，我們來一次溫故知新。

俚語給人傳神的感覺，卻又容易令不是在同一文化生活的人誤會，有些情況會引來「火熱」場面。在多年前，我有位英語尚算合格，初到美國的朋友，她是很主動的人。在與一個美國人對話後，她問我為何美國人老是很排外，她說那美國人叫她「離開」。原來對方跟她說「Get out of here!」，其實這是句俚語，像中文說：「真的假的！」，即是否在說笑的意思。

愛購物的姐姐也投訴說，上個月她到英國旅行，聽到兩位英國人聊天說：「某百貨公司有低至五折的優惠！」她正想聽清楚是哪一間百貨公司，其中一位英國人卻回了一句「Shut Up」。姐姐心想，何必這樣神秘，叫人不要說下去，是不想太多人去搶購吧，太自私了。其實這位英國人不是叫對方收聲，而是說：「你不要開玩笑，居然有這樣好的優惠？」令人難以置信！

有人不明白為什麼外國人動不動便提到God。在日常生活中，God的確常用，表達意想不到的糟糕事件出現的Oh God，在憤怒時破口而出的God Damn。在估也不估時說出Holy Cow，難道他看到一隻神牛的海市蜃樓(mirage)？其實只是說：「很神奇。」

當看到一位朋友作出不當行為，我們會說：「好心啦，求求你不要這樣！」不能光看字面意思去解釋。在同一個場景，美國人會衝口而出說「for God's sake」，不是要你為了神去做一些事情，正確的意思是叫你做個正常人，可理解為「天啊，拜託」。

老師要求學生把功課做好一點，學生回覆不能再好，這固然是晦氣說話。不過，若是美國人的對話，可能會出現不同意思。在早晨或平時間問好「How you doing?」，回應除Fine或Good之外，充滿正能量的人或會回一句「Cannot be better」，意思是「好到不能再好」了。

就算你不是教徒，但從電視或電影中，你也知道天主教的神父叫Father。一位有禮貌的外國人向年輕人問好說：「How are you son?」那年輕人很不友善，沒有回應。年輕人認為自己不是他的「兒子」，卻不知道對話中的son是指年輕人。

最後，也是最可笑的一個誤會。有台灣人很不耐煩地向店員要求讓他先付錢，說自己找不到泊車位，所以把車非法地停泊在路中間，「快一點，否則有人打我。」商店老闆一聽，感覺情況嚴重，便特別通融。老闆後來回頭一想，覺得有點不合情理，便叫售貨員重複原話，原話是「Quick! somebody beat me!」。原來這台灣人的英語水平不到位，未掌握汽車響號應用horn作動詞，錯誤地配以中文近音的「嘍」，誤成了「beat」。真是Oh my God!

◆康源 專業英語導師