

Hong Kong Blind Union's response to

"The application of the Marrakesh Treaty to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region"

Hong Kong, 16 May 2022 - The Government announced that the Marrakesh Treaty, which facilitates access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled entered into force in China on 5 May 2022. This also applies to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Hong Kong Blind Union welcomes the move.

The foundation of an inclusive society is to have barrier-free access to knowledge. As a member of the World Blind Union, we are committed to promoting the development of a barrier-free society, as well as removing the difficulties faced by persons with a print disability reading and appreciating various artworks.

As we have been striving for Hong Kong's copyright legislation to be in compliance with the Marrakesh Treaty for years, we are glad to see the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 was enacted and came into effect on 26 June 2020. It has enhanced the copyright exceptions for persons with a print disability, bringing Hong Kong's copyright legislation fully in compliance with the standards under the Marrakesh Treaty. From now on, persons with a print disability have greater access to published works in an accessible format. The application of the Marrakesh Treaty also fosters the cross-border exchange of accessible copies of published works internationally.

Although the Marrakesh Treaty helps deal with copyright issues at present, the number of print media in an accessible format is still very limited. To further support persons with a print disability, we hope local publishers to work together to produce books in an accessible format in the long run.

Hong Kong Blind Union was established in 1964. It is the first self-help group organised and managed by people with visual impairment. It aims at promoting the spirit of self-help and mutual-help as well as striving for equality, opportunities and independence for visually impaired persons.

For further information, please contact:

Wu Pui Sze, SoSo

Senior Communications Officer, Hong Kong Blind Union

852 - 2339 0666

香港九龍觀塘翠屏邨翠櫻樓地下 13 - 20 號

Unit 13-20, G/F, Tsui Ying House, Tsui Ping Estate, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

傳真 Fax: (852) 2338 7850

網址 Website: www.hkbu.org.hk 電郵 Email: info@hkbu.org.hk

香港失明人協進會為有限公司註冊的慈善團體

Hong Kong Blind Union is a registered charitable organization incorporated with limited liability



電話 Tel: (852) 2339 0666