(Your address)

The Secretary

The Review of Sexual Offences Sub-Committee

The Law Reform Commission

4th Floor, East Wing, Justice Place

18 Lower Albert Road

Central, Hong Kong

E-mail: hklrc@hkreform.gov.hk

(Date)

Dear Secretary of The Review of Sexual Offences Sub-Committee:

I have read your recent Consultation Paper and am responding to your request for public engagement.

Re: Incest Law and Adopted Family Members

I am encouraged that the Sub-Committee is addressing the inequality of protection between natural and adopted children regarding the crime of incest under the current Law, and that a change has been proposed to bring parity.

**It is my view that adopted children need to be protected by the Incest Law in exactly the same way as natural children within the family - that adopted children and natural children are treated equally by every legal instrument including by the Incest Law.**

It is well documented that adopted children have experienced a number of traumas, including separation from their birth mothers, frequent moves and changes in caregivers, institutional care, and lack of coherent information about their pasts. Such aspects make adopted children more vulnerable and in need of protection from abuse of various kinds, including sexual abuse within the family.

I urge you to rectify this archaic legal loophole urgently and reduce the risk to adopted children of further injustice and to appropriately protect our adopted children through reform of the Incest Law.

Yours sincerely,

(Your name)