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### **Statement on the Escalation of Violence in Hong Kong**

The Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 has been a subject of great controversy over the past few months. Very sadly there has been no consensus emerging from frank and rational dialogues. On the contrary, physical conflicts have continued unabated and are threatening to escalate, out of hand, seriously affecting the livelihood of ordinary citizens. It is a situation that benefits no one and must be brought to an end immediately. The children and young ones in particular suffer in the repeated violent clashes. As an agency dedicated to promoting the well-being of children and youngsters in a non-violent environment, Against Child Abuse strongly makes the following appeal:

1. All sectors of the community, including law enforcement, to stay calm and refrain from using any form of violence as a means to resolve differences.
2. Despite disparate views, no one should incite others to adopt violent acts in any form or apply them on the young ones.
3. Violence breeds violence and the resultant vicious circle would seriously affect our children and families and the development of the society. It will only be succeeded by intergeneration transmission of violence as children are erroneously led to learn violence as a solution to resolve conflicts.
4. Children and adolescents have the right of protection, survival, development and participation. They need to be protected by adults in all circumstances and must not be harmed physically or psychologically.
5. We urge Government to act in accordance with the law in protecting the rights of the young persons under arrest.
6. We urge Government to immediately engage in a direct dialogue with different sectors of the community with a view to resolving any differences in a rational, peaceful and honest manner.
7. We request Government to set up an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the root causes of the social unrest relating to the Bill and to propose appropriate measures to prevent the recurrence of similar conflicts in future.

**Give our children a caring and non-violent environment to grow up healthily**

Against Child Abuse  
22 July 2019

