Harmony House was established in 1985 as the first shelter for abused women and their children in Hong Kong. Today, we have developed into a one-stop anti-domestic violence service agency, with a wide range of preventive, therapeutic and developmental programs to help families affected by domestic violence. We also organize community education programs, promote harmonious and healthy family relationships, provide training to multidisciplinary professionals and advocate for policies and legislations on behalf of victims of domestic violence. Our mission is to eliminate domestic violence, opposing the use of violence as the means of control, and helping victims of domestic violence resume dignity.

**Belief & Mission**

We believe that all human beings have the right to live with dignity and respect, and to be free from violence, abuse and coercion. Human rights should be preserved in our homes as well as in our society.

We believe equality and mutual respect are fundamental principles for a healthy and harmonious family.

We are dedicated to eliminating domestic violence, opposing the use of violence as the means of control, and helping victims of domestic violence resume dignity.

We hope to build up a society of “Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence”.

**Shelter for Women and Children**

**Objectives**

- To provide a safe and immediate refuge for female victims of domestic violence and their children.
- To offer 24-hour immediate support and referrals for families and intimate partners affected by domestic violence.
- To empower abused women, and help them restore their dignity and establish harmonious relationships.
- To protect and address the needs of children who have witnessed or been affected by domestic violence.

**Service Targets**

- Abused women and their children (girls of all ages and boys who are under 12; discretion may be given to boys who are 12 to 14 years old for admission).
- Hong Kong residents or those who have the legal right to stay in Hong Kong.
- We serve all ethnic groups and people of different sexual orientations, religions, or other backgrounds.

**Application for Admission**

- Self-approach through our 24-hour Woman Hotline 25220434.
- Referral by social workers or other professionals.

**Termination of Service**

- Either the Shelter or women residents may initiate the termination of service.

**Scope of Service**

1. **Refuge Service**
   - **Free Emergency Accommodation**
     - Residents are responsible for the expenses of their daily living.
     - The Shelter may offer basic necessities to residents with financial difficulties.
   - **Duration of Stay**
     - The period of stay is usually two weeks.
     - Under special circumstances, extension to a maximum of three months may be granted.

2. **Woman Hotline & Follow-up Service**
   - **24-hour Woman Hotline**
     - We provide female victims of domestic violence with assessment, crisis intervention, emotional support, information on community resources, knowledge on safety and protection, and referrals.
     - If necessary, admission to the Shelter can be arranged.
   - **Hotline Follow-up Service**
     - We provide emotional support and counseling for the callers who are affected by domestic violence.

3. **Individual and Group Counseling**
   - Crisis assessment, urgent need assessment, casework counseling and therapeutic groups are provided to help abused women and their children to address their traumatic experience.
   - Issues related to emotional management, impact of domestic violence, safety tips, future plans, marital discord, intimate partner and parent-child relationships are addressed.

4. **Educational and Developmental Activities**
   - Through a wide range of educational and developmental activities, residents are able to gradually build up their self-esteem and establish their social support network.
   - Regular activities include talks on legal proceedings, peer sharing groups, parent-child activities, educational talks, workshops and hotline follow-up services.

5. **Aftercare Service**
   - Three-month aftercare services are provided for discharged women and children in order to facilitate them to link up with community resources and adjust to a new life.
   - Services include telephone follow-up, face-to-face counseling, home visits, emotional support and referral services.

6. **Collaboration and Outreaching Service**
   - In collaboration with other multidisciplinary professionals, educational talks, workshops and hotline follow-up services are rendered to reach out to the abused women, children and youth. Low-income and at-risk families, ethnic minorities and new arrivals are our major target groups.