

Joint Secretariat for Colloquium of Religious Leaders
兼 敬 禮 節 聖 賢 聯 合 辦 事 處
c/o 8 Robinson Road, H. K.
香港羅便臣道8號轉交
(Translation)

2nd February, 1981.

Mr. X.W.J. Topley, OMS, JP.,
The Secretary for Education,
Room AA-4B,
St. John's Building, 4/F.,
Garden Road,
Hong Kong.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 4 November, 1980 replying to our earlier suggestions on moral education in primary and secondary schools. It seems that you still have certain queries, and we would like to express ourselves further.

Your letter contended that the religious bodies are responsible for a large number of schools and for religious and moral education within them; and that a sense of moral values can be inculcated through elements in the social studies syllabus, through assemblies and through extra-curricular activities.

Now, we read in the Governor's Report published in October 1980 that the crime rate committed by youth has jumped from 7% to 16%. Also Sir Jack Carter, speaking on a school occasion on 14 November, pointed out that the social ills of Hong Kong stem from the lack of moral education in our schools. Thus we see that the task of nurturing the young in our community cannot be fulfilled single-handedly by what religious and moral education our schools can offer. Neither can it be accomplished merely through extra-curricular activities. Rather, it falls upon the shoulders of those who have the most important responsibilities for the educational programme of Hong Kong, to plan and work in concert, facing reality squarely, until some viable solutions are found to save the grave situation.

Your letter also suggested that some people have doubts about the advisability of moral education in the present age, and that there is the question about the competence and willingness of teachers to handle and discuss moral issues. One would think that these are the very questions which require searching answers by responsible parties.

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Whether the school curriculum should include moral education is a question of primary importance. How moral education (including the problem of teaching method) is to be carried out is another question. The two should not be confused, and one should not off-hand deny the need for moral education.


We are glad to know that the Education Department has a committee working on a syllabus for moral education. This shows that your Department considers moral education important enough. We would like to know how the work in question is progressing. If the results could be made known soon, it would please us very much indeed.

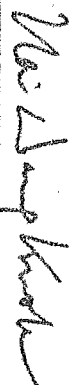
As to whether teachers will be willing to teach moral subjects and how such matters can be taught, we trust that the Colleges of Education will gladly consider it their duty to take up the matters to further the goals of moral education set up by your Department. We further believe that there will be teachers with high educational ideals who will step forward to accept such a sacred and urgent responsibility.


Your letter mentioned a seminar on moral education to be held in March 1981 for the heads of secondary schools. Should we receive an invitation we would be happy to delegate a representative to attend the seminar.

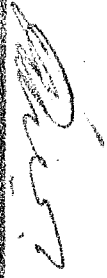
With best regards,


Yours faithfully,



Rev. Kok Kwong &
Mr. Wong Wan Rim
The President &
Vice President,
H.K. Buddhist Asso.


Rev. Kwok Nai Wang,
General Secretary,
H.K. Christian Council
Confucian Academy


Mr. Chow Yau
The Chairman,
The Chinese Muslim
Cultural & Fraternal
Association.


Mr. Tuet Wai Sin
The Chairman,
The Chinese Muslim
Cultural & Fraternal
Association.


Rt. Rev. John Baptist' WU
Catholic Bishop of H.K.


Mr. Tong Kwok Wah
The Chairman,
The H.K. Taoist Asso.

c.c. His Excellency the Governor

宗教領袖座談會
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欣聞 貴署課程發展委員會已設立宗教倫理學科小組委員會，進行編
寫該科課程綱要，可見 貴署對德育課程早已關注，未知該項工作進展情
況如何，如能儘早公報，則同人等更加快慰。

至於教師是否願意教授及如何教授德育課程，相信教育學院必會當仁
不讓，自能配合需要，提供適當訓練，而具有崇高教育理想之教師，亦必
樂於接受此神聖而迫切使命。

貴署於八一年三月將舉行中學校長研究會，討論道德教育問題，如
蒙 邀約，將樂意派員出席聆教也。

天主教香港教區胡振中主教

香港基督教協進會總幹事郭乃宏牧師

士部乃啟

香港佛教聯合會長釋覺光、黃允啟

梁光光

香港道教聯合會主席湯國華

湯國華

香港國際伊斯蘭協會主席脫維善

脫維善

香港孔教學院主席周有

周有

一九八一年二月二日

(副本呈交督憲麥理浩爵士)

宗教領袖聯會
秘書處
聯合電話：H1238978

黃其敏