

China

The Foundation notes with deep concern the *de facto* discrimination against internal migrants in the fields of employment, social security, health services, housing and education that indirectly result from, *inter alia*, the restrictive national household registration system (*hukou*) which continues to be in place despite official announcements regarding reforms. The Foundation is concerned about the reported persistence of discrimination against persons with physical and mental disabilities, especially in terms of employment, social security, education and health.

The Foundation notes with concern that funds allocated to public health have diminished despite the overall increase of health-care expenditures over the past decade. Furthermore, The Foundation notes with concern that the health-care system that had in the past delivered basic health care to the majority of rural residents has been considerably reduced. The Foundation is concerned about the significant number of persons, especially women, who suffer from mental illnesses and about the inadequacy of measures to ensure a decent life for persons suffering from mental illnesses. The Foundation is also concerned that, in addition to suffering social stigmatization, persons with mental illnesses often spend a long time in psychiatric facilities, where they live in sub-standard conditions and receive sub-standard treatment and care. The Committee also notes that suicide among women is alarmingly high. The Foundation is deeply concerned about reports of forced abortions and forced sterilizations imposed on women, including those belonging to ethnic minority groups, by local officials in the context of the one-child policy, and about the high maternal mortality rate as a result of unsafe abortions.

The Black Caucus Foundation calls upon the government to implement its decision to dismantle the *hukou* system of national household registration and to ensure that in any system that replaces it, internal migrants will be able to enjoy the same work, social security, housing, health and education benefits enjoyed by those in urban areas. The Foundation also recommends that the government adopt effective measures to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, especially in the fields of employment, social security, education and health, to provide for more appropriate living conditions for persons with disabilities and to allocate adequate resources for improving the treatment of, and care for, persons with disabilities. The Foundation also urges the government to undertake effective measures to improve the delivery of health services in rural areas and ethnic minority regions, *inter alia*, by allocating adequate and increased resources. The Foundation encourages the government to take urgent measures to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, including by means of sex education in schools and awareness-raising campaigns to eliminate discrimination against HIV-positive persons.

The Foundation recommends that the government allocate adequate resources and undertake effective measures for the treatment of, and care for, persons with mental illnesses, and to ensure that appropriate standards are established and enforced in psychiatric facilities to prevent maltreatment and neglect of mentally ill patients. The Foundation also recommends that the State party conduct a study regarding factors and causes of the high rate of suicide among women. The Black Caucus Foundation Committee urges the government to undertake effective measures to ensure that abortions are carried out voluntarily and under adequate medical and sanitary conditions and to ensure that the existing legislation governing the one-child policy does not violate the human rights enshrined.