

Legal Issues relating to the Introduction of Universal Suffrage for the Election of the Chief Executive in 2017

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What is the relevant law governing the question of the proposed introduction of universal suffrage for the election of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR in 2017? What are the problems of interpretation of such law? What are the possible directions for the development of the current constitutional reform in Hong Kong?

This presentation will introduce the provisions of the Basic Law and interpretations and decisions of the National People's Congress Standing Committee that are relevant to the current debate on the introduction of universal suffrage for the election of the Chief Executive in 2017. The issues raised by the Government's Consultation Document (issued on 4 December 2013) on this subject will be discussed. Currently proposed models for the election of the Chief Executive (proposed by the Alliance for True Democracy, Mr Ronny Tong SC, eighteen scholars led by Dr Brian Fong and Mr Eric Cheung, the "Occupy Central" movement, pro-establishment figures, etc) will be considered. The stance of the Central Government will be analysed. Possible scenarios for the development of constitutional reform in Hong Kong in the foreseeable future will be described.