

Thanksgiving Festival without Discrimination



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The ABCs of Law

Deacons, a Hong Kong law firm with more than 165 years of history, continues to work closely with the Hans Andersen Club. The two organisations have now worked together since 2014, creating an education programme specially designed to help children to develop their knowledge of the legal system in Hong Kong, including some basic legal concepts such as contractual obligations, intellectual property rights, and to understand their rights and obligations as members of Hong Kong's community.

"The ABCs of Law" is an initiative of Deacons' corporate social responsibility programme, "Deacons Cares". As part of the programme, Deacons' volunteers lead interactive workshops, either at the Hans Andersen centres or Deacons' offices. Through drama, stories, interactive discussions and special learning kits, children are encouraged to participate and express their views. The programme reached another significant milestone in 2020 – Deacons' volunteers worked with an illustrator to create storybooks. This effort highlights the programme's ongoing commitment and desire to educate children on the different fields of law through the art of storytelling.

We are proud to be behind a programme that provides valuable opportunities for our children to explore the relationship between law and society, and learn about their own rights and duties.

Thanksgiving Festival without Discrimination

At the village of Forest Lake, there is an annual tradition where residents have a grand celebration of the Thanksgiving Festival every autumn. The purpose is to show appreciation and gratitude to their ancestors for developing beautiful grounds. This year, Quackie was elected to be the chairperson of the organising committee.

This is our Thanksgiving Festival. I promise I will make this celebration a spectacular one for you all!

It will feature singing and dancing performances by beautiful boys and girls, a weightlifting competition and the village's traditional food festival gala.

Wow! That sounds wonderful! I will invite my friends who have just moved to our village to join too!



Quackalina, this is a traditional festival of the village of Forest Lake – participants must be indigenous inhabitants.

New immigrants are not allowed to join. Also, only good-looking individuals will be selected to participate in the singing and dancing performances and the weightlifting competition is only open to residents who are young and strong. In this way, our Thanksgiving Festival celebration will definitely be perfect!

Oh!
So many restrictions.
My classmates cannot join then.

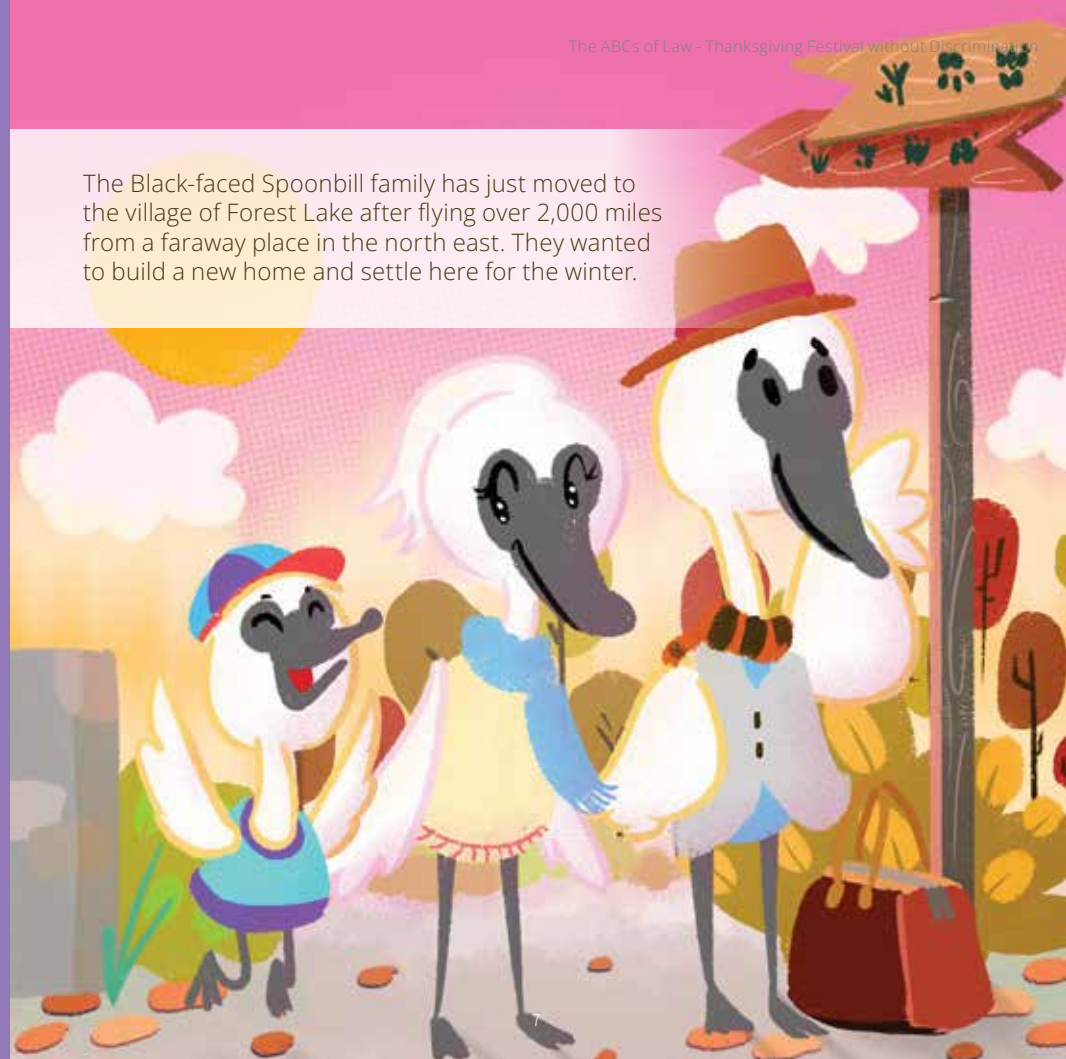


PAUSE & THINK:

Do you agree with Quackie's plan?



The Black-faced Spoonbill family has just moved to the village of Forest Lake after flying over 2,000 miles from a faraway place in the north east. They wanted to build a new home and settle here for the winter.



Freckles just passed by and heard Piglet angrily mumbling to herself.



Dad, Mum, I want to go!
I can make new friends there and
can take part in the competition.
I am really looking forward to it!

Our family are not indigenous
residents of the village of Forest Lake.
Looks like we are not eligible to join.

Black-faced Spoonbill mummy, the village of Forest Lake
does not welcome new immigrants.
Let's look for another place to spend winter before
the cold weather arrives.



Freckles, the travel loving rabbit just passed by and overheard the conversation of the Black-faced Spoonbill family and saw the disappointed face of little Black-faced Spoonbill.



I am a well-known engineer.
I also wish to contribute to the Thanksgiving
Festival of the village of Forest Lake.
But I am female, why can't I take up the role
of a stage-building engineer? This is unfair!
Both males and females should
have equal job opportunities.




To celebrate the Thanksgiving Festival, a performance stage has to be built. So Quackie put up a notice to recruit "male" residents of the village of Forest Lake to be the engineers of the stage building work.

Grandpa, Grandpa, this year's Thanksgiving Festival will have a weightlifting competition. You're the strongest and most experienced athlete in our family. You must sign up!


Little Tiger, did you not see the entry requirements? The weightlifting competition only welcomes young and strong residents to join! Your grandpa is too old.

Little Tiger was taken aback and Grandpa Tiger also felt very frustrated. Freckles just passed by and overheard the conversation between Quackie and Little Tiger.







Little Mouse, you cannot enter the three-legged race because this competition is only open to animals with two legs!



Many animals in the forest have four legs. Does that mean none of them are eligible to enter this competition?



You will have to ask the chairperson of the organising committee!



Not far off, the Snazzy Swans and the Little Mouse siblings are quarrelling outside the celebration venue.

Meanwhile, Sly Fox passed by Freckles' home. He saw Freckles looking unhappy and asked why. Freckles told him everything.

I think the celebration rules set by Quackie are very unfair!

I think it's not a big deal. After all, different animals may sign up for different activities based on their own ability and strength. I'm sure everyone can find an activity that suits them.

PAUSE & THINK:

Freckles and Sly Fox have different opinions. Who do you think makes more sense?

After hearing the complaints of the animals, Freckles thought of Old Spotty, the highly respected leader of the village. He went to tell Old Spotty everything he had seen and heard.



After Freckles told him about the grievances among the animals and the disputes surrounding the Thanksgiving Festival, Old Spotty asked to see Quackie and taught him the importance of equal opportunity for everybody.



Equal opportunity is based on mutual respect and acceptance between people. It gives everyone the same rights and responsibilities, allowing them to participate fairly in accordance with their strength and ability. Discrimination against any animal because of some irrelevant factors such as sex or age will only make the animal feel disappointed and unfair.

This loses the meaning of the Thanksgiving Festival!



To ensure everyone can enjoy Forest Lake's Thanksgiving Festival, whether you are indigenous residents or new immigrants, male or female, young or old, and regardless of how many legs you have, all are welcome to take part in the preparation and join the celebration!



Quackie realised he was wrong and felt very ashamed. Therefore, he decided to immediately cancel all the unfair rules for the Forest Lake Thanksgiving Festival.

At the grand Thanksgiving Festival of Forest Lake, Quackie and his sister Quackalina and their friends were all very excited, and together in a harmonious atmosphere, gave thanks to the ancestors and friends of the village of Forest Lake.



What is Anti-discrimination?

Anti-discrimination means everyone is equal before the law. We should not treat someone unfairly because of his/her sex, disability, race or family status. There are two types of discrimination. At schools, if we refuse to play with a schoolmate because he/she has to use a wheelchair, it is direct discrimination. If we, unreasonably, only play with students who can run and jump, such that the student who has to use a wheelchair is not accepted by us because he/she cannot meet this requirement, then it is indirect discrimination.

Anyone who unreasonably discriminates against others may have to bear legal responsibility. In fact, we are all unique individuals. We can maintain harmony as long as we have mutual respect and acceptance for each other.

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