

Anti-porn activists petition legislators

OUTRAGED anti-pornography Christian groups want youngsters viewing Category III films to be punished alongside the cinema managers who let them through the gates.

Presbyterian church minister, Reverend Carver Yu, suggested youths should be fined or made to spend a few hours in cells for watching adults-only films.

"They have to take some of the responsibility for breaking the law, too," Yu said.

Yu helped organise a signature campaign that attracted support from 80 churches and Christian groups as well as 700 individuals. As part of the exercise, petitioners bought a full-page advertisement in a Chinese newspaper.

Petitioners included high-profile pastor Lo Lung-kwong and the Christians for Hong-kong Society.

Yesterday, eight representatives from the groups met legislators to present the petition and to discuss curbing the proliferation of sexually

explicit posters. Pornography represented "violence against women" and "an active defamation of humanity", Yu said.

The increasing flood of posters lining the streets of Mong Kok and Yau Ma Tei "irritated and offended" his parishioners, he said.

Repulse Bay church minister Alan Boddy agreed with petitioners that pornography was "a major assault on the minds of young people".

But he said "the people who put pornography into the community should be punished — not its victims".

According to Yu, Christian petitioners want to canvass support from non-Christian teachers and social workers.

They also plan a dialogue with Recreation and Culture Secretary James So and film company heads to discuss how to improve the quality of local films.

Yu also called for better policing of cinemas showing Category III films.