

# Action for better books for minors

The Ad Hoc Group on Children's Comic Books has launched a two-pronged attack on harmful publications and unhealthy reading material available to young people and children.

The group representing 10 organisations has called on the Urban Council's Select Libraries Committee to set up a large-scale book display to promote healthy reading material for youngsters.

It has also written to the Director of Home Affairs urging him to organise regional discussion groups within each City District Office.

"If the teachers, parents, community leaders, youth workers and other concerned individuals can come together and discuss the problem, they may come up with sound ideas on how to deal with it on a district basis," a spokesman for the group said yesterday.

As for the book-display, the group feels that all major publishing companies in Hongkong should be invited to take part so that there will be a comprehensive selection of children's books in both English and Chinese.

The purpose, the spokesman said, is to let parents and teachers see the wide variety of

good books and magazine available so that they will be encouraged to take a firm stand on the choice of reading material for youngsters.

The group is still waiting for replies from the department and the council.

Meanwhile, the Hongkong and Kowloon Newspaper Hawkers General Labour Union yesterday urged parents to boycott those newsstands selling indecent comic books and pornographic publications.

A spokesman for the union revealed that they recently held meetings with the Salvation Army's joint anti-pornography committee which pledged full support for their action.

He said: "Most of our 1,000-odd members have already joined us in the fight against pornography and some non-members have also come forward with their support.

"We understand that we will lose about \$600 a month each if we refrain from selling these filthy publications. But if it's for the good of the younger generation, then we think it's worth it," he said.

A spokesman for the Salvation Army's joint committee said they had formed a vetting body with members of the Hongkong Printers' Association to examine children books before they are put on sale.