

# 過猶不及

*guo4 you2 bu4 ji2*

Is hosting “ladies’ nights” at entertainment establishments discrimination based on gender?

A court was recently asked to rule on this question. Since men are charged more than women for the same service, the court decided, at least technically, this is a violation of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance.

The case was brought to court by the Equal Opportunities Commission following a complaint from, as you would have guessed, a man.

The case has prompted lawyer-lawmaker Paul Tse Wai-chun to call on people to use common sense when bringing discrimination cases to court.

If anti-discrimination laws are invoked indiscriminately for the most frivolous matters, courts are compelled to render decisions that bring no real benefit to anyone.

## Idiom by Lon Yan

Excessive use of such legal protection is a classic case of “過猶不及” (*guo4 you2 bu4 ji2*).

“過” (*guo4*) is “to pass,” “exceeding,” “over,” “excessively,” “猶” (*you2*) “like,” “similar to,” “as if” and “不” (*bu4*) “not,” and “及” (*ji2*) “to reach,” “to attain.” “過猶不及” (*guo4 you2 bu4 ji2*) is, literally, “to be excessive is like not attaining.” It means “too much is as bad as too little.”

The karaoke and nightclub industry is up in arms over the court decision and has decided to stage protests - by throwing big “ladies’ nights.” People certainly won’t mind seeing more of such protests.

### Terms containing the character “及” (*ji2*) include:

及時 (*ji2 shi2*) - timely; in time

及格 (*ji2 ge2*) - to pass a test

來不及 (*lai2 bu4 ji2*) - it’s too late

及早 (*ji2 zao3*) - as soon as possible