



透過聯合國普遍定期審議機制於香港推動人權  
Advancing human rights in Hong Kong through  
the UN Universal Periodic Review process

香港普遍定期審議聯盟督導委員會  
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Hong Kong UPR Coalition Steering Committee  
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## **Hong Kong UPR Coalition: Speech for Panel on Constitutional Affairs – United Nations Universal Periodic Review**

The Hong Kong UPR Coalition was founded to help facilitate civil society for the UPR, work collaboratively with government, the Legislative Council and the international community.

The UPR is an opportunity and test for the Hong Kong government to show that they are truly committed to their ‘core values’, which the Chief Executive has said includes respect for human rights.

Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. 15 human rights treaties apply in Hong Kong. The UPR covers all of those treaties, the UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as voluntary pledges and commitments.

Hong Kong is subject to scrutiny for its human rights performance. Whether it is through the UPR, treaty bodies or public commentary by the international community. This is a necessary part of Hong Kong’s participation in the international human rights system.

However, it is with deep disappointment that the government consistently states that foreign governments or institutions should not – and I quote – “*interfere in any form in the internal affairs of the HKSAR*”. This undermines the government’s respect for human rights and commitment to the international human rights system.

We ask the government for:

- a draft of the HKSAR section of the national report to be reviewed by LegCo and the public, in advance of being submitted to the PRC;



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- meaningful and considered consultation with civil society – accept our meetings and respond promptly to correspondence – do not become defensive; and
- a centralised database that monitors and evaluates treaty body and UPR recommendations, following consultation with civil society.

LegCo members have a crucial role to play in the UPR, translating recommendations into policies and laws – as noted in UN Human Rights Council resolution 35/29. In the Second UPR Cycle in 2013 there were no recommendations on Hong Kong. On 6 November 2018, for the Third UPR Cycle, there will be.

Actions LegCo members can take now, include:

- contacting CMAB and seeking attendance as part of the official HKSAR delegation to Geneva for the hearing on 6 November 2018;
- supporting the establishment of a standalone human rights panel in LegCo;
- seeking briefings from the Hong Kong UPR Coalition and other civil society representatives; and
- preparing a submission to CMAB by 7 May 2018.

LegCo members can drive policy innovation in government. All government departments, including CMAB, should think ‘outside of the box’ and not fall back on the consistently referenced ‘established practice’ phrase for the UPR when recommendations are put forward. Each LegCo member can help make that a reality.

The Coalition stands ready to assist LegCo, the government and the international community to help protect and promote human rights in Hong Kong, and make Hong Kong a more inclusive city.