



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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NEWS RELEASE

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OVER 40 ORGANISATIONS OUTLINE CONCERNS TO UN OVER HONG KONG'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's deteriorating rule of law and human rights environment has been profiled in a landmark submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on China. It has been presented to the UNHRC for a review that will take place in November.

The Hong Kong UPR Coalition (the Coalition) submission, endorsed by 45 civil society organisations, represents the collaborative efforts of civil society to hold the Hong Kong SAR government accountable to its human rights commitments.

"The increasing erosion of fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong will be under the international spotlight in the coming months. The UPR is an opportunity for the government to show it is serious in upholding its human rights obligations," said Simon Henderson, the spokesperson for the Coalition and Senior Policy Advisor at Justice Centre Hong Kong.

Much has changed in Hong Kong since 2013 when the last UPR was held. Election candidates have been disqualified based on their political beliefs, booksellers have been abducted and detained, freedom of the press has deteriorated and civil society is increasingly marginalised.

Mr. Henderson added: "The submission provides a roadmap of specific, measurable and achievable recommendations for Hong Kong to abide by its human rights commitments and restore its international standing. Many reflect long outstanding recommendations by the United Nations which the Hong Kong government has ignored."

The submission details 109 recommendations. For example, it calls for the government to:

- adopt a comprehensive human rights ordinance to incorporate all international human rights treaties that apply to Hong Kong in domestic legislation;
- only propose national security legislation on the basis of Article 23 after universal suffrage has been fully implemented, ensuring that any proposed legislation fully complies with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the rule of law;
- not set an inappropriate high threshold for granting international protection and grant asylum seekers and refugees the right to work;
- amend the Public Order Ordinance, in particular section 17B on "disorder in public places" and section 18 on "unlawful assembly", ensuring it is consistent with the ICCPR;
- take measures to ensure persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their liberty through institutionalisation and provide adequate resources for 24-hour community support and/or small group homes;

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- adopt a comprehensive law to combat human trafficking and forced labour; and
- adopt legislation to prohibit discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

“Our submission reflects the aspirations of the Hong Kong people who want to build a fairer and more equal society for all,” continued Mr. Henderson. “Importantly, it also echoes Chief Executive Carrie Lam’s vision of making Hong Kong a more inclusive city.”

Engagement with civil society is crucial to the UPR process. Unfortunately, quite often, civil society is on the sidelines when it comes to major legal and policy developments, in contrast to the Chief Executive’s pledge to “connect”. “Having meaningful consultations, meeting regularly and promptly responding to correspondence will go a long way in engaging civil society.

“Hong Kong’s competitive edge is supported by respect for human rights and adherence to the rule of law. Civil society is a critical part of that process. Human rights are not a matter of ‘internal affairs’, but of interest to the international community.

“The UPR is a test for the government to show that it is truly committed to protecting Hong Kong’s core values. We look forward to working with the government to implement these recommendations,” he concluded.

The submission is available online at: www.justicecentre.org.hk/policy-advocacy/universal-periodic-review/.

The upcoming UPR on China, including Hong Kong and Macau, will take place in Geneva in early November 2018. The UPR Working Group, which consists of the 47 member states of the UNHRC, will conduct the review.

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About Hong Kong UPR Coalition

The Hong Kong UPR Coalition represents the collaborative efforts of different civil society groups to advance human rights in Hong Kong through the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. Founded in 2017 for the third cycle of the UPR process, the Coalition is facilitated by Justice Centre Hong Kong and comprises a wide variety of non-governmental organisations. It is directed by the Hong Kong UPR Coalition Steering Committee, which consists of nine members, namely Civil Human Rights Front, Disabilities CV, The Hong Kong Society for Asylum-Seekers and Refugees, Hong Kong Watch, Justice Centre Hong Kong, Les Corner Empowerment Association, PEN Hong Kong, Pink Alliance and Planet Ally.

About Universal Periodic Review

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council aimed at improving the human rights situation on the ground of each of the 193 United Nation member states. It is the first international human rights mechanism to address all countries and all human rights. The UPR is a peer review process, and it complements the work of various United Nations treaty bodies.