



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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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOWS LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN UPR CONSULTATION PROCESS

HONG KONG – The Hong Kong UPR Coalition is disappointed by the decision of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) to refuse the release of its draft report to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR). This is despite multiple requests from the Coalition and Legislative Council members.

“Mrs Carrie Lam made a commitment to ‘connect’ and increase stakeholder participation upon becoming Chief Executive. Unfortunately, this is not happening in practice,” said Simon Henderson, spokesperson for the Hong Kong UPR Coalition and Senior Policy Advisor at Justice Centre Hong Kong.

“Instead of innovation in consultation, government bureaus, such as CMAB, cite ‘established practice’, limiting transparency and accountability.”

Releasing the draft national report for the UPR process is a common consultation practice worldwide. According to research, over 70% of countries release their draft report and consult with the public in advance of their reports. Examples of countries who have done so include Australia, Canada, Vietnam and Lao PDR.

Despite requests made by the Coalition since April, CMAB has refused to release the short 3 page draft UPR report for public consultation. The Coalition raised the issue in a deputation and submission to the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs, a submission to CMAB and in email correspondence to CMAB.

Additionally, Legislative Council members have made repeated requests. On 11 May 2018, the Hon Hui Chi-fung wrote a letter calling for the release of the draft report for public consultation. CMAB refused to release the draft report. Subsequently, on 5 July 2018, a joint letter signed by 24 Legislative Council members called for release of the draft report. Again, CMAB refused to do so.

“Engagement with civil society and Legislative Council is crucial to the UPR process. Contrary to CMAB’s claims, the UPR consultation process has not been ‘extensive’. For consultation to be effective it must be meaningful and considered, more than just ticking a box.”

“The Coalition urges CMAB to reconsider its decision and release the 3 page draft UPR report for public consultation,” Mr Henderson concluded.

The above mentioned submissions from the Hong Kong UPR Coalition are 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 on 6 November 2018. The UPR Working Group, which consists of the 47 member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council, 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.