

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release****13 August 2020****UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE QUESTIONS HONG KONG'S ASYLUM POLICY, IMMIGRATION DETENTION, AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS**

HONG KONG – The United Nations Human Rights Committee has released a [List of Issues](#) for Hong Kong's fourth cycle review under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR"). The Hong Kong government is required to provide a written response to the list of issues ahead of the next stage of the review process, a formal dialogue between the Committee and the government, which is expected in late 2021.

The Committee raised questions about an array of human rights issues, including:

- Procedural safeguards for asylum seekers detained under immigration powers and measures taken to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in immigration detention facilities ([12],[13])
- Issues concerning the Unified Screening Mechanism, including its low substantiation rate, the provision of free legal assistance, the publication of decisions of the Torture Claims Appeal Board, and guidelines on protecting vulnerable asylum seekers ([14])
- Issues concerning Hong Kong's asylum policy, including refugees' right to work, right of abode and the legal status of children born to refugees in Hong Kong ([13])
- Steps taken to combat all forms of human trafficking and protect victims of trafficking ([15])
- Steps taken to protect migrant domestic workers from exploitation by agencies and employers ([16])

To facilitate the Committee's preparation for the List of Issues, Justice Centre Hong Kong provided [a submission](#) in May with a focus on the ICCPR's application in the migration context. Our submission details our concerns with the Unified Screening Mechanism, the Government's asylum policy, arbitrary detention in the immigration context and the lack of protection for victims of human trafficking in all its forms.

Melanie McLaren, Interim Co-Executive Director of Justice Centre, observed: "Human rights enshrined in the ICCPR protect everyone in Hong Kong, including asylum seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and other migrants who are too often overlooked. We hope the Hong Kong Government will provide concrete answers to the Human Rights Committee's List of Issues and engage constructively in the review process."

DRIVING CHANGE FOR A FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY

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About Justice Centre Hong Kong

Justice Centre Hong Kong is a non-profit organisation focused on the promotion of human rights through our legal, psychosocial, research, policy and advocacy work. We are committed to driving change for a just and fair society.

Founded in 2007 as Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre, over seven years we helped over 2,000 men, women and children on the road to a new life.

Building on our expertise in refugee issues, in 2014 we identified a clear need for an increased response to tackling forced labour and human trafficking in Hong Kong, and expanded our remit to fill this gap and rebranded as Justice Centre Hong Kong. We now help around 300 people each year through our direct services and aim to benefit many more through our research, policy and advocacy work.

新聞稿

即時發佈

2020年8月13日

聯合國人權委員會質詢香港難民庇護政策、入境羈留及打擊人口販運工作

香港 – 聯合國人權委員會早前就香港在《公民權利和政治權利國際公約》（簡稱《公約》）下的第四輪審議發出一份[議題清單](#)。審議機制的下個階段將會是香港政府與委員會預期在2021年下旬舉行的正式對話，而在此之前香港政府須就議題清單提交書面回應。

委員會就多方面的人權議題提出問題，其中包括：

- 有關處於入境羈留尋求庇護者的程序保障，以及減低入境羈留設施中公共衛生風險的措施（第 12-13 段）
- 有關統一審核機制的問題，包括其低確立率、免費法律援助的提供、酷刑聲請上訴委員會決定的發佈，以及保護弱勢尋求庇護者的準則（第 14 段）
- 有關香港庇護政策的問題，包括難民的工作權和居留權，以及在港出生難民兒童的權利（第 13 段）
- 打擊人口販運和保護受害人的措施（第 15 段）
- 為保護移民家務工不受僱傭機構和僱主剝削而採取的措施（第 16 段）

為協助委員會準備議題清單，Justice Centre Hong Kong 在五月時向委員會提交了一份針對《公約》中有關移徙議題的[意見書](#)。我們的意見書詳列了我們對於統一審核機制、政府庇護政策、入境羈留，以及人口販運受害人缺乏保護問題的關注。

Justice Centre Hong Kong 署理總監 Melanie McLaren 表示：「《公民權利和政治權利國際公約》所載的人權保護在香港的每一個人，包括經常被忽視的尋求庇護者、難民、人口販運受害者及其他弱勢社群。我們期望香港政府能夠就委員會的議題清單提供確切答案，並積極參與審議過程。」

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傳媒聯絡

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關於 Justice Centre Hong Kong

Justice Centre Hong Kong 是一所透過法律和心理支援、研究、倡議及政策工作推動人權的非牟利組織。我們致力令香港成爲一個公正和公平的社會。

Justice Centre Hong Kong 的前身為成立於 2007 年的 Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre (HKRAC)。HKRAC 幫助了超過 2000 名難民男女及兒童踏上新的路途。

憑著我們在難民議題上的專業知識，我們意識到有急切需要打擊香港的強迫勞動和人口販運問題。故此。我們於 2014 年從新命名為 **Justice Centre Hong Kong**。Justice Centre 每年為約 300 名人士提供直接服務，並旨在透過我們的研究、政策及倡議工作使更多人受惠。