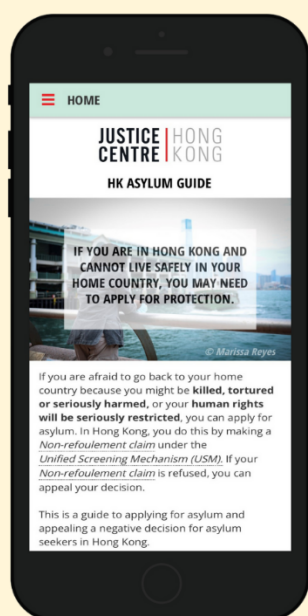


==For Immediate Release==**13 January 2022****Press Release****Justice Centre Hong Kong and Freshfields upgrade award-winning 'HK Asylum Guide'**

Latest version of the downloadable guide offers additional language support, information on appeals to the Torture Claims Appeal Board, and integration with case management systems

**Upgrade Released for the Award-winning HK Asylum Guide App!**

Latest version of the downloadable guide offers additional language support, information on appeals to the Torture Claims Appeal Board, and integration with case management systems.

Download it now from
bit.ly/HKAsylumGuide!

HONG KONG – Justice Centre Hong Kong and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer ('Freshfields') have released a major upgrade to their award-winning 'HK Asylum Guide' app and website.

First developed last year as a collaboration between Justice Centre and our longstanding pro bono law firm partner Freshfields, the guide was created to help asylum seekers in Hong Kong to understand their legal rights. From today, the guide will be available in French in addition to English, with new languages continuing to be added until the guide is available in all 11 of the languages most commonly spoken by our clients. Recognising the value of this resource, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – the UN body charged with protecting refugees worldwide – is contributing to the process by assisting with the translation of the information in the guide into a number of languages.

DRIVING CHANGE FOR A FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY

The scope of the guide has also been broadened to support Justice Centre clients appealing to the Torture Claims Appeal Board. While the original version supported those lodging first-instance asylum applications, applicants who are unsuccessful at first instance will likely go through the appeal process. Adding information for Torture Claim Appeals Board appellants makes the guide a 'one stop shop' for information on the whole process of seeking asylum under the Unified Screening Mechanism in Hong Kong.

Finally, the guide also incorporates a new 'Contact Us' function, enabling users to complete a simple electronic form that is then sent directly to Justice Centre's case management database. This will speed up our assessment of clients' needs, directly connecting asylum seekers who need legal, social welfare and/or mental health support to our services team and improving efficiency of service delivery and response times.

"The original version of the app was a significant step forward for us and our clients when it was launched last year, but I'm delighted that we have now been able to expand it in a way that addresses even more of our clients' needs," said Lynette Nam, senior legal advisor and partnerships manager at Justice Centre Hong Kong. "I'm grateful to Freshfields for their continued support and look forward to continuing to work with them to enhance the app even further in the future."

"The app was the result of a highly rewarding collaboration between our lawyers, innovation team, app designers, Justice Centre and its clients, leveraging our experience of building digital tools for clients," said Georgia Dawson, Freshfields' senior partner who spearheaded the original project during her tenure as Asia managing partner. "As that experience has grown, it became clear that there was significant potential to expand the functions and capabilities of the app in order to provide even better support to Justice Centre's clients, who are often some of the most vulnerable members of the Hong Kong community. I'm very excited by the significant enhancements being built into this latest version, which I hope will make it an even more valuable tool."

"The value of the 'HK Asylum Guide' quickly became clear after it was launched last year," said Philip Thorpe, senior protection associate and officer-in-charge of the UNHCR sub-office in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. "Our existing resources and our unique insight into the needs of people fleeing persecution around the world meant that we were well-placed to help and very happy to do so when Justice Centre approached us. Congratulations to Justice Centre and Freshfields teams for reaching the latest milestone in this highly successful and worthwhile project."

ENDS

Notes for editors

About the 'HK Asylum Guide'

Launched in December 2020, the HK Asylum Guide mobile and tablet application and its companion website are designed to help asylum seekers in Hong Kong to understand their legal rights. The app and website offer users a simple, step-by-step guide on the application process for 'non-refoulement' protection in Hong Kong. If granted, such protection means that authorities will not return an applicant to his or her country of origin. It is effectively the first step in a process that enables applicants to be referred to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for recognition as refugees and resettled in a third country. Without this protection, applicants may face torture, persecution or serious violations of fundamental human rights.

JCHK and Freshfields' work to build the app was named the winning project in the 'Social Justice' category of the Financial Times Innovative Lawyers Asia-Pacific Awards 2021. To watch a short video on how the app is helping clients of Justice Centre Hong Kong, [click here](#).

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 and policy work. We are committed to driving change for a just and fair society.

Founded in 2007 as Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre, and rebranded in 2014 as Justice Centre Hong Kong, we provide assistance to Hong Kong's most vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking and victims of forced labour. We now help over 300 forced migrants each year through our direct legal and welfare services and aim to benefit many more through our research and awareness-raising work.

About Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP is a global elite law firm with a long-standing track record of successfully supporting the world's leading national and multinational corporations, financial institutions and governments on groundbreaking and business-critical mandates. Our 2,800-plus lawyers deliver results worldwide through our own offices and alongside leading local firms. Our commitment, local and multinational expertise, and business know-how means our clients rely on us when it matters most.

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==即時發布==**2022 年 1 月 13 日****新聞稿**

Justice Centre Hong Kong 及富而德律師事務所更新 HK Asylum Guide 流動應用程式及網頁
最新版本提供不同語言支援、向酷刑聲請上訴委員會提出上訴的資訊及直接聯絡職員協助的功能



享譽盛名的
HK Asylum Guide
流動應用程式及網頁
推出全新版本！

最新版本提供不同語言支援、
向酷刑聲請上訴委員會提出上訴的
資訊及直接聯絡職員協助的功能

馬上在此下載
bit.ly/HKAsylumGuide

香港 — Justice Centre Hong Kong 及富而德律師事務所（富而德）就其享譽盛名的 HK Asylum Guide 流動應用程式及網頁推出全新版本。

為了幫助在港尋求庇護人士了解其法律權利，此指引於 Justice Centre 和其長期公益法律夥計富而德的合作下在去年推出初版。由今天開始，指引除了提供英語版本以外，還會提供法語版本以及持續增加其他語言支援，以囊括所有 11 種 Justice Centre 受助人最常用的語言。聯合國負責負責保護全球難民的專責機構——聯合國難民署——在此過程中，負責支援相關翻譯工作，正正印證了此指引的重要性。

指引所包括的資訊範圍亦擴展至支援 **Justice Centre** 受助人上訴至酷刑聲請上訴委員會/免遣返聲請呈請辦事處。指引的初版提供了有關向入境處提出庇護聲請的重要資訊，但未能於初審階段成功的聲請人將需要就有關決定提出上訴。因此，增設有關上訴程序的資訊能讓指引「一站式」提供有關在香港透過統一審核機制獲得庇護的資料。

最後，指引亦加設了「聯絡我們」功能，以讓使用者完成簡單電子表格並將相關資訊直接寄到 **Justice Centre** 的個案管理系統。此舉將加快我們評估受助人需要的過程，以及直接將需要法律、社會福利和心理健康支援的尋求庇護人士轉介至我們的專業服務團隊，以提升服務效率及加快個案處理時間。

Justice Centre Hong Kong 高級法律顧問及合作夥伴經理**藍玉**表示：「此流動應用程式去年發布的初版對於我們機構及我們的受助人象徵着重要里程碑，因此我十分高興我們能夠擴展其功能，以回應我們受助人不同方面的所需。我非常感激富而德團隊的持續支持，並期望與他們繼續合作以在未來繼續加強此應用程式的功能。」

富而德律師事務所資深合夥人 **Georgia Dawson** 過往擔任亞洲管理合夥人時極力支持此計劃。她表示：「這個流動應用程式乃富而德律師、應用程式開發專家與 **Justice Centre** 團隊及其受助人鼎力合作的傑出成果。透過持續合作，我們清楚看見繼續擴展此應用程式功能的重要性，從而更全面地支援 **Justice Centre** 的受助人——他們許多是香港社會最為弱勢的一群。對於應用程式最新版本增設了許多重要的新功能，我感到十分鼓舞並期望這些更新能夠令此應用程式成為更有價值的工具。」

聯合國難民署高級保護主任及香港辦事處主管**索菲利**表示：「**HK Asylum Guide** 流動應用程式的價值在去年首度推出時顯然易見。我們機構的現有資源和我們對世界各地逃避迫害人們之需求的獨特見解意味着我們有能力提供協助，因此當 **Justice Centre** 及富而德團隊聯絡我們時，我們非常高興能夠予以輔助。我僅此向 **Justice Centre** 及富而德團隊就此十分成功及意義重大的計劃達到新里程碑送上衷心祝賀。」

-完-

編輯註：

關於 **HK Asylum Guide**

於 2020 年 12 月推出，**HK Asylum Guide** 電話及平板流動應行程式和其網頁旨在協助在港尋求庇護人士了解其法律權利。流動應行程式及其網頁為用戶提供有關香港免遣返保護申請程序的簡單、分步指引。若取得免遣返保護，聲請人將不會被香港政府遣返至其原居國。這是聲請人獲其個案轉介

至聯合國難民處作難民資格審核，以及後續申請移居至第三國家的第一步。如果沒有這種保護，聲請人可能會面臨酷刑、迫害或嚴重侵犯其基本人權的行為。

Justice Centre Hong Kong 及富而德團隊開發此流動應用程式的計劃在金融時報 2021 年亞太創新律師大獎中贏得「社會公義」組別獎項。[按此](#)觀看有關此應用程式如何幫助 Justice Centre 受助人的短片。

關於 Justice Centre Hong Kong

Justice Centre Hong Kong 是一所透過法律和心理支援、研究及政策工作推動人權的非牟利組織。我們致力令香港成為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 名強迫移民提供直接服務，並透過我們的研究和政策工作及提高公眾意識使更多人受惠。

關於富而德律師事務所

富而德律師事務所是一家全球性律師事務所，在成功支持世界領先的全國性公司和跨國公司、金融機構及政府執行各項具創新性且涉及關鍵業務的委託上，長期以來保持佳績記錄。我們聘用了超過 2,800 名律師，通過我們自己的辦事處以及與當地領先的律師事務所合作，在世界各地提供法律服務。我們具備的決心、本地和跨國專業知識以及業務訣竅，意味著客戶依賴我們在關鍵時刻協助其排難解紛。

傳媒聯絡

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