



An editorial on China and Hong Kong from the Liberal Democrats Friends of Hong Kong

◆ Empowerment ◆ Justice ◆ Rights

Autumn 2024

Liberal Democrats Friends of Hong Kong

Could you be buying from forced labour at the next Bournemouth Autumn Conference?

Chinese News agency proudly follows story as Britain and Belgium defines R. (on the application of World Uyghur Congress) v National Crime Agency



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HOME NEWS INSTITUTIONS POLICIES ARCHIVE 中文

New air-cargo route links China's Xinjiang, Britain

Updated: August 20, 2024 08:59 Xinhua

Written by Nicholas Chan. A recent ruling in favour of the World Uyghur Congress focused on the risk that goods traded in the UK come from forced labour in Xinjiang. The National Crime Agency had refused to investigate whether cotton from China may be tainted with labour from prison camps. The Appeals Court have quashed the NCA decision and the question of whether to investigate using the Proceed of Crime Act is remitted back to the NCA. The case is significant as it will amplify businesses to better appreciate the likelihood they could inadvertently commit money laundering offences under the POCA. Albeit, as the new trade links between Bournemouth and Urumqi have demonstrated, what needs to be done for more businesses to appreciate the legal risks they are undertaking.

In other aspects, there are multiple UK legislation which forbid the importation of goods linked to forced labour. They included The Foreign Prison-Made Goods Act 1897 and The Modern Slavery Act 2015 which the Liberal Democrats made law during our years in Government. So, with legislation that goes back to the Victorian times, surely we wouldn't be buying goods made with Uyghur repression? Sadly no. 30% of the world's production of cotton originates from the People's Republic of China ('PRC'), and out of that 85% is from the Xinjiang region. Remember, it is beyond dispute that the PRC is holding Uyghur populations in work camps and they are repressed for their cultural beliefs. As a matter of fact, the UK Government do not dispute these claims. It is stated,

"The evidence of the scale and severity of the human rights violations being perpetrated in Xinjiang against the Uyghur Muslims is now far-reaching. It paints a truly harrowing picture. Violations include the extrajudicial detention of over 1 million Uyghurs and other minorities in political re-education camps; extensive and invasive surveillance targeting minorities; systematic restrictions on Uyghur culture, education and, indeed, on the practice of Islam; and the widespread use of forced labour. The nature and conditions of detention violate basic standards of human rights. At their worst, they amount to torture and inhumane and degrading treatment, alongside widespread reports of the forced sterilisation of Uyghur women." – Hansard 12 Jan 2021, Foreign Secretary

With trade relations and the prospect of filling up an underused airport which has recently been under new ownership, it is always more complex than a business decision to ban trade or not invite Chinese freighter jets to land with cheap goods. But as the consumer, you can SAY NO! Businesses are responsive to consumers. If we take into full concern the implications on the quality of goods and the welfare of British manufacturing (which is worth nearly a quarter of our GDP along with apprenticeships for our youths), we should be buying more reputable products. Together, we should:

New air cargo route links aviation hub of southern Xinjiang and Moscow

Source: Xinhua Editor: huaxia 2024-01-26 20:03:15

URUMQI, Jan. 26 (Xinhua) -- A new air cargo route was launched on Friday, linking Kashgar Prefecture in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Moscow, capital of Russia.

Operated by Russia's Volga-Dnepr Airlines, an IL-76 freighter took off from southern Xinjiang's Kashgar Laining International Airport on Friday, carrying nearly 40 tonnes of equipment, electronic products and other goods from China. The flight was headed for Moscow.

It is the first international cargo route opened in Kashgar this year. The flight is scheduled to operate every Thursday, with a flight time of about six hours, according to the airport.

"The launch of the new route will provide strong support for trade between China and countries in Central Asia and Europe," said Zheng Dong, general manager of Xinjiang Commercial Logistics Group.

An important aviation hub along the Belt and Road, the airport connects capitals and major cities of eight neighboring countries, including Pakistan and Tajikistan, via a flight that is only one and a half hours.

Since 2019, the airport had launched six international cargo routes to Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore of Pakistan, Budapest of Hungary, Liege of Belgium and Cologne of Germany by the end of 2023.

"Stay vigilant and take the initiative. You can help defend UK's worker rights and human rights by not purchasing goods that could be tainted by forced labour. Such as goods made in Xinjiang or flown in from Xinjiang. Tell businesses to do their due diligence and risk assessment properly!"

As a respectable opposition, the Liberal Democrats should also maintain pressure on the new Labour government to act and conduct a proper investigation into Chinese forced labour goods in our supply chain. We want solar panels and EVs to give our kids a cleaner future, but we do not want to burden our children to deal with future national security issues or deprive them of opportunities as suspicious goods are dumped onto our shores and killing off prospects of a resilient industry. **A direct air cargo route between Xinjiang and Bournemouth increases the risk of tainted products, allowing not reputable Chinese enterprises to profit off European markets.**



What's the point of Free trade without Fair trade?

British workers losing out on unfair competition

Written by Nicholas Chan. British and European airlines are avoiding Russian airspace because of rightfully imposed sanctions. Meanwhile, Chinese airlines roamed into Russian airspace and flew from the Far East with cheap Russian oil at the expense of Ukraine's civilians.

Firstly, our sanctions on Russia and avoiding Russian airspace are correct. What would have been the alternative to not sanctioning Russia? Also, what would happen if a British flight had to land on Russian soil after what we knew happened to Ryanair Flight 4978?

Meanwhile, a flight performed by a Chinese airline from Heathrow to Beijing would have earned British pounds, carried British Nationals and banked using UK financial institutions. Yet, it is allowed to ignore sanctions. Indeed, Beijing has the right not to follow our sanctions regime; but it should not be allowed to do so without consequences.

Worse, because Beijing chose to ignore sanctions which will help Ukrainians defend their homeland, British workers and companies are losing out since it will be impossible to compete on an unequal footing. On routes between London and Beijing, our law-abiding companies skirt around the Caspian Sea through the narrow corridor in Central Asia which adds to 2.5 hours of extra flight time and expensive aviation fuel. Chinese airlines continue to overfly Russia on the old route. Now, British Airways has stopped serving Mainland China altogether as Chinese airlines unfairly out-competes European airlines easily.

It also means Chinese manufacturers can benefit from these unfair advantages while British manufacturing and services have less control over the logistic services they depend on. They also could not formulate company policies to support trading relationships with companies who sign up for a modern slavery statement, minimum wage and growing the economy locally.

Our partners in Europe face the same problem. Air France-KLM Chief Executive is quoted as describing the Chinese airlines as having an "unfair advantage". We have been advocating for a resilient trade network, a network whereby we grow and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with members so that each of us does not slide into Beijing's patronage. After all, Beijing seeks to devolve authoritarianism into our way of life. The situation is well-suited for a combined approach. As European and UK ministers explore re-engaging China in diplomatic channels, it should be clear that Chinese companies should bear the responsibility to stand up to the values our citizens believe in. **Data gathered by Statista showed an overwhelming 75% of the UK public in favour of maintaining current sanctions against Russia. Chinese airlines can respect British consumers and avoid Russian airspace or be penalised in a joint effort by the UK and the European Union.**

Again, as in the case of the freight route between Xinjiang and Bournemouth which can facilitate goods produced with forced labour, you - as the consumer, are best in place to advocate for free trade with fair trade. Call out unfair competition and say no to companies taking unfair advantages. **We do stand with Ukraine. Be vigilant and say no to services from Chinese companies which flouted with sanction regimes.**



Our Party Stands with the People of Hong Kong and successfully campaigns for civil liberties and human rights



2021 - New visas introduced to allow people from Hong Kong to come and live in the UK
The British National Overseas (BNO) visa grants Hong Kongers the right to live, work and study in the UK. Since the new visa programme launched, over 120,000 Hong Kongers have applied to move to Britain. **Liberal Democrat MP Alistair Carmichael led the charge to introduce the new visa programme through his Hong Kong Bill.**

"I spoke to a girl there who had been in Tiananmen Square and told me terrible stories about what had happened. The sense of anger from the Chinese here is extraordinary. They told me a million people had turned up at Happy Valley and not a bottle was broken. I did a brief interview in Mandarin and signed the book of condolence in Chinese" - Paddy Ashdown's visit to HK, Friday, 10th June 1989.

At this difficult time, Britain needs to stand up on the world stage for those vital liberal values which are the cornerstone of our society: democracy, liberty, human rights and the rule of law. **The UK should be supporting democracies around the world – such as Taiwan – and standing up to states like China and Russia who wish to undermine our democratic values to their own end.**



'It is time to do what we should have done during the handover: give the people of Hong Kong the guarantees they need by providing their right to live in the UK.'
Alistair Carmichael

Red Box THE SUNDAY TIMES





United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 and One China Policy

Have you been understanding 'One China Policy' from International Law or Beijing's point of view?

"So, Taiwan has been part of China for centuries, yet the US and its allies are preparing for war with China over it. They are not the foreigners trying to get their hands on the island..."

This line does sound similar to propaganda statements from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). It is also consistently repeated by George Galloway, the former Workers Party of Britain leader and former Member of Parliament of Rochdale the United Kingdom. He also presented 'Taiwan Untangled', a propaganda documentary TV program broadcasted by China Global Television Network (CGTN). For long CGTN used George Galloway as a figurehead from Europe which shared the view of CCP. Firstly CCP tried to use him to show its citizens even Europeans supported our views, and secondly CCP tried to promote their agenda, like the 'One China Policy', to the audience in Europe.

Was the PRC the replacement of ROC?

In the program, there was a section explaining how the United Nations expelled the Republic of China (Taiwan) by saying 'when the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 recognised the PRC as the sole legitimate representative of China to the United Nations.' This line tries to follow the content of the Resolutions:

"Recalling the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Considering that the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China is essential both for the protection of the Charter of the United Nations and for the cause that the United Nations must serve under the Charter, Recognising that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, Decides to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognise the representatives of its government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organisations related to it."

However, the CGTN documentary carried on by saying,

"Resolution 2758 was highly significant, it meant the diplomatic recognition of China (In English subtitle it was written as PRC, contradicted from the original words from the interviewee) by the United Nations (in 1971). It resolved the fundamental question of the Chinese government's legitimate representation at the United Nations."

"During the Cold War, US-led efforts played with the idea of recognizing 'Two Chinas' but even then they knew it could never fly....."

"Throughout recorded history, it is clear Taiwan has been an integral part of China..."

The documentary first purposely phrased Resolution 2758 as an act to finally make China to be recognised in the United Nations and only recognised since 1971. It also failed to recognise that the RoC is also a Chinese representative and represented the Chinese seat since the inception of the United Nations after the Second World War.

By failing to recognise the legitimacy of the ROC representation, today's PRC narrative effectively says China has only been admitted to the United Nations since 1971 as the PRC and that the ROC has no representation in the body. This is factually erroneous and far from the legal view of both as Taiwan's historical rights in international law and the definition of the Resolution.

Firstly, legally what the resolution did was to transfer the UN Security Council and general assembly seats from RoC to PRC. It was more a leveraging of power between the Beijing and Taipei governments instead of excluding Taiwan from all UN positions. (Such as the World Health Organisation)

Secondly, the documentary also ignored the fact that the Taiwanese elected their representatives in the legislative and executive branches of its administration, and the existence of a separate civil government running Taiwan and its territory at all. Taiwan had been colonies of several countries, not to mention the Taiwanese indigenous population originated from Southeast Asia (not China as mentioned by Galloway). China did not rule officially Taiwan till 1661, after the remanent of the Ming Dynasty expelled the Dutch colonists.

Only through some complex diplomatic incidents will warrant future discussions; only the PRC remain as the sole representative in the United Nations. The ROC delegation vacated its seat in 1971.

A new platform for the PRC to insert its narratives

Since its admission to the Security Council and main body, the PRC started its diplomatic propaganda 'One China Policy' almost immediately. First, in November 1972, they used the chance of passing Resolution 2908 during the 27th session of the UN General Assembly to remove Hong Kong and Macau from the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, while recognising China's stance and request over the questions of Hong Kong. The original purpose of this resolution was to force the existing colonial powers to grant independence to the remaining colonies as soon as possible since those colonies on the list would ultimately be granted independence if the residents in the regions wanted to become independent.

The rights to choice by the residents in colonies were guaranteed under the UN Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was passed in 1960. Therefore, the original intention was not to exclude any colonies from the list. However, the Chinese representative in the United Nations took this chance to enforce its One China Policy by ignoring the will of Hong Kong and Macau citizens on self-determination.

The motion was passed by a 99:5 vote, which is a big margin. China therefore used this to justify its claims over Hong Kong on the coming years, particularly during the negotiation with the United Kingdom in the early 1980s. Resolution 2908 consequently prevented the peoples of Hong Kong and Macau from their right to self-determination.

The narratives to exclude Taiwan damage global stability

Unfortunately, what the UN assembly did not realise was that it was only the first step for China to exclude Taiwan from involving in international affairs and interacting with international organisations, even during global crises. In an article titled 'The Distortion of UN Resolution 2758 and Limits on Taiwan's Access to the United Nations' published by Jessica Drun and Bonnie S. Glaser on the German Marshall Fund of the United States. It explained,

Larry is a directly elected member of the FIRC and Chair of the Liberal Democrats Friends of Hong Kong

Born in Hong Kong, Larry studied History (Bachelor and Master Degrees) in Chinese University of Hong Kong, and moved to the UK in 2004. He worked in the financial sector since then and specialised in insurance markets in APAC region.

Larry joined the party in 2019 after the Brexit referendum, and have been candidates in the 2018 and 2022 local elections. He is also a frequent contributor to Interlib, the magazine for Liberal International British Group, and published several articles and book reviews on China and Hong Kong affairs.

He is an elected FIRC member since 2023.  [@Larryngan1](https://twitter.com/Larryngan1)

◆ Talk v Trust on China

(Continued from the previous page)

"The PRC's effort to rewrite Taiwan's status at the UN ramped up in the 1990s and early 2000s at the same time as the Island's democratization. The PRC has since worked to "internationalise" its "One China" Principle and to conflate it with UN Resolution 2758, a revisionist shift from the original intent of the document."

"Beijing has managed to further institutionalise and normalise its stance on Taiwan within the UN by signing secret agreements with the UN bodies, restricting Taiwan's access to the UN and its facilities, and embedding PRC nationals across various levels of UN staff. The UN and its specialised agencies have not made the text of these documents, such as that of the 2005 memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the PRC and the World Health Organisation (WHO), available to the public or to any entity beyond the main signatories, though leaked guidance memos provide insights into the scope of the MOU's content."

The most famous example of this institutionalisation was during the SARS crisis in the 2000s. Taiwan was one of the most affected regions after Hong Kong and China. Throughout the outbreak, 346 cases were reported and 73 people unfortunately died due to SARS. Taiwan has been in lockdown since 2002, so it was trying to interact with the international community to resolve the crisis as soon as possible. In May 2003, Taiwan sent a group of 40 government officials to the General Meeting of WHO and submitted a request to allow its representative to sit in the WHO general meeting as an observer. During the general meeting, the Vice Premier and the Health Minister of the PRC Wu Yi rejected the request by explaining the request directly violated the 'One China' Policy in the United Nations. She went on by saying this action is an attempt to interfere with Chinese domestic affairs, consequently, the action would turn into the 'Two Chinas' or 'One China One Taiwan' Policies.

To make matter worse, Taiwan was not allowed to participate in the global outbreak alert and response system of the WHO. The system is designed to cope with events such as SARS. WHO also delayed the data from Taiwan for several days, which could be crucial when the health authorities in Taiwan attempted to trace the movement of the virus carrier. David Cyranoski, Lecturer from Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study of Human Biology, published an article titled 'Taiwan left Isolated in Fight Against SARS' on Nature on 17th April 2003. He explained Researchers in Taiwan are being shut of the global investigation because their country was not recognised by the WHO, which is coordinating the study. He went on to explain that the research wanted more data on SARS after it affected 2 Taiwanese patients in early March. 'But WHO officials told (the researchers) that they should instead approach the PRC in Beijing, which the organisation does recognise.'

Eugene Chien, the former foreign minister of Taiwan, published an article titled 'Beyond SARS: Give Taiwan WHO status' in the New York Times on 16th May 2003 and explained the difficulties Taiwan faced at that time. It reads as, 'WHO also refused to provide any assistance, such as providing Taiwan's scientists with the sample viruses needed in their research toward treatment and vaccines, or sending any experts to advise us on containment efforts. Repeated letters from our Ministry of Health and medical experts to Gro Harlem Brundtland, director-general of the WHO, went unanswered.'

Recent US-Taiwan relations

After the SARS pandemic ended in 2003, the PRC continued its effort to restrict Taiwan at the UN. PRC also attempted to use its narrative of the 'One China' principle as embedded in Resolution 2758 to call into question the legitimacy of longstanding US policy on Taiwan – including the US-Taiwan Relations Act.

Some member states such as the United States realised the PRC's attempt to re-define UN Resolution 2758 and have pushed back against UN statements claiming that Taiwan is a province of the PRC, including issuing a 2007 "non-paper" asserting its position that Taiwan's status is not yet determined.

The PRC's stance on Taiwan was further hardened after the Taiwanese Presidential election in 2016, in which the Democratic Progressive Party candidate Tsai Ing-Wen won by a landslide. (The Taiwanese Present is elected by full franchise under popular vote.) According to the article 'The Distortion of UN Resolution 2758 to Limit Taiwan's Access to the United Nations', before 2016, Taiwan was still permitted to have access to targeted UN specialised agencies. However, after the 2016 election, Taiwan was once again blocked from UN participation under pressure

from China to adopt the 'One China' principle embedded in Resolution 2758. The article further explained, "The extent of PRC efforts to codify the "One China" Principle into the UN system is pervasive—no issue item, memo, or note is too small or insignificant for Beijing and its proxies to overlook—and their influence and reach is wide-ranging."

The examples shown in the article included Taiwanese (RoC) passport holders being denied entry into UN buildings and offices, amending the languages of other UN agencies by adopting the PRC stance in WHO which resulted in preventing Taiwanese representatives from having access to any UN specialised agency, and preventing Taiwanese access to UN resources or attending UN organised forums and events.

The most prominent example was how the PRC amended the internal guidelines on preventing Taiwanese passport holders' entry into the UN buildings and offices. The article reads, "In one instance in June 2017, a Taiwan professor, Liu Huang Li-Chuan, and her students were denied entry into the public gallery of the UN human rights office in Geneva after being told that their international student identification cards were not acceptable form of documentation and that only documents issued by the PRC would be allowed. The professor says she was shown a document of internal guidelines provided by the UN staff checking in visitors. ... (The guidelines) revealed that a combination of an ROC national identity card and ROC passport was deemed unacceptable while an ROC passport with a Mainland Travel Permit for Taiwan Residents was permitted."

For those who do not know about the Mainland Travel Permit, it is a kind of travel document issued by the PRC required for Taiwanese citizens to travel to Mainland China. Without the possession of this Permit, a Taiwan citizen cannot visit Mainland China. Once registered it, the personal data of the applicants will be kept by the authorities in Mainland China and restricted only by the PRC government. The permit holders would also be seen as politically aligned with Mainland China by the Taiwanese authorities, which could cause trouble to the students and the professor if they applied for one, not to mention there is no legitimacy to force a Taiwanese to apply for such. Such a move from the PRC was attempting to force Taiwanese citizens to pick a side: Either you supported the 'One China' policy, or you will be rejected to have any access to UN facilities and resources.

Implications

Should other countries worry about it? Should we focus on learning these repeated narratives and projected by British politicians like Galloway? We should.

The PRC's method to drive the Taiwanese out of UN institutions can be used on countries that are at odds with the PRC or countries that challenge the PRC because Beijing seeks to encroach on democratic institutions and challenge our liberal way of life. Needless to say, Beijing has increasingly infiltrated the British democratic system to subjugate its views while we, rightfully, allow Beijing to exist.

The PRC excluded the Taiwanese based on the voting result of one resolution. Subsequently, Beijing uses its powers to push to amend all interpretations of internal documents to achieve their aims and build foundations for a false narrative. These did not fall into any vote in the UN General Assembly, hence easily unnoticeable due to minor changes undertaken discreetly. Failure to tackle this subrogation could bring our allies into a bad position such as in the event of increasing hostility perpetuated by China in supporting Russia or threats against Taiwan.



◆ A Resilient UK Industrial Strategy



EVs - Can UK have a Fair Climate Change Policy, Economic & Strategic Resilience and Liberal Trade?

Written by Nicholas Chan. Follow him [@nicholas_yhchan](https://twitter.com/nicholas_yhchan)

China is fully aware of its security implications on Electric Vehicles due to their integration into the Internet of Things (IoT). The IoT can help increase efficiency but it also means every object on the internet is connected, exchanges and controls other objects on the network. It is capable of exploiting these controls even if initially it is meant to be ring-fenced. So, we should start thinking about the increasing creep of Chinese IoT products such as EVs, Solar Panels and Wind Turbines. Once they have a significant foothold on our shores, it may be too late.

Our speakers are not interested in hawkish politics. Their concerns are sensible as our government had not given sufficient thought as to whether it is possible to isolate areas of critical infrastructure should there be hostility or unacceptable demands from bad state actors.

Isabel Hilton has spent the past decades establishing a close dialogue with China until dialogues were not feasible. She is well-rehearsed in Chinese cultural beliefs and the ways of Chinese business culture. However, the Chinese state is becoming increasingly driven in its sphere and inequitable to co-exist by mutual respect. Likewise, Irina Von Wiese is well-respected in working on trade sanctions and foreign investment screening as a lawyer. She is experienced in dealing with Europe's policy on Huawei and data security.

Here, we review our fringe discussion with updated views. At Spring 2023, we discussed the following questions with Isabel and Irina:



Given our quests for new supply chains, we should take the opportunity to form better resilient networks which create jobs and national security. Can we do that while maintaining sustainable targets?

Adding further nuance, what are the geopolitical cost and environmental costs associated with sourcing green products from China?

20% of our emissions come from transport. There is no doubt de-carbonising our transport is crucial to net zero and halting disastrous climate change.



Chinese Evs benefits from huge state subsidies and are manufactured under less stringent labour work rights and environmental laws. Chinese Lithium mines are exceptionally environmental damaging and coal mines are found to use forced labour - including exploitations what amounted to crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, not everyone can afford a Mercedes EQS and a techy, family-friendly BYD is very tempting indeed. Thus, we often say China is subsidising our way into net zero.

Like The Foreign Prison-Made Goods Act 1897, the Proceed of Crime Act 2002 and The Modern Slavery Act 2015 which I have mentioned in our front-page article, there are mechanisms available that we have not fully implemented.

Moreover, Irina mentioned decoupling and described some discussions on decoupling as a fallacy if we do not respect the full scale of actions required to build resilient networks.

Instead, this time we would focus on trade agreements, Foreign Direct Investment screening and supply chain diligence as components in our trade frameworks.

Trade agreements may be a negotiation channel for discussing human rights and improving labour rights among countries. In the case of China, quality standards of goods and an increase in dialogue have pushed for positive progress in the 80s and 90s. Again, in our pursuit of free trade, we failed to set up our defensive strategies and recognise that Beijing's autocracy always harbours its unique ideology and set of controls where the party comes before the people.

If we were more keen on defensive strategies, Chinese citizens and ourselves may now be in a better, stable geopolitics.

And surely, our political choices such as Brexit and cuts on foreign aid have diminished Britain's global standing. We've left the global south to fend for itself and into the patronage of China. That is the same with Europe. For some time in Western or Baltic Europe, China was described as *the more reliable partner* for infrastructure. Therefore, it is also frustrating to see the important US Inflation Reduction Act focusing on building a single resilient network and not comprising Europe and Asia into building diverse resilient networks.



In Foreign Direct Investments, we can take a look at Chinese investment in Hamburg and Huawei's communication infrastructure in Germany, it could well start to make sense that Chancellor Scholz is doubling down on controversial sell-offs to Chinese companies including state-owned conglomerate COSCO. It is already too expensive to decouple the investments.

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Growing up in Singapore with a HK heritage, Nicholas trained in Psychology and Law in Australia and the UK. Previously, Nicholas practices as a psychologist giving expert evidence, policies on rehabilitation system and researching on anti-human trafficking. He is now training in law focusing on Criminal Law and social justice.

Nicholas joined the party in 2019 and is active in the Medway Liberal Democrats. He writes on local issues in the local papers on social housing advocacy, concerns on quality of living and human rights.

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◆ A Resilient UK Industrial Strategy

Berlin now extensively favours FDI screening. However, politicians require a strong political view to not shift policies as influenced by lobbying groups influenced by state actors. In the UK during the Boris ministry, we do see wobbling over the Chinese application to take over the Newport Wafer Fab even though it is clear fab industries are highly sorted by Beijing for control. Similarly, screening FDI should not be based on political isolationist views like Trump's policies which do not derive from a national strategy that is critically analysed by public scrutiny.

Lastly, it could well be rewarding to engage private enterprises to perform supply chain diligence. Enterprises should be persuaded to scrutinise their supply chain from the raw product to the end product. The European Union is implementing a new directive to employ this duty in 2027 for goods imported into the EU single market. It is also a reversed burden of proof. I mentioned in the front article how our current legislation places the burden of proof first on the claimant to prove that a product is tainted with forced labour. Not only was this legal threshold high given a bad state actor would never have cooperated with us to uncover crimes against humanity, but we also learned that it was difficult to engage our authorities like the NCA to conduct an investigation. However, the EU regime will require companies to prove that their imports are not tainted before it can be imported into the European market.

It remains to be seen how effective the 2027 European regime is. It is also 3 years away when forced labour camps are already well documented by 2021.

It remains to be seen how effective the 2027 European regime is. It is also 3 years away when forced labour camps are already well documented by 2021.

There is also the question of shifting this scrutiny responsibility from the government to the private sector. Will these open more channels to lobbying or enterprises willing to engage purchasing power from profits for the exploitation of these new legislation? Will there also be more diminishing political will for Governments to set an Industrial Strategy once they initially find how seemingly effective the private sector may handle due diligence without public money?

Could you be buying from forced labour at the next Bournemouth Autumn Conference?

Chinese News agency proudly follows story as Britain and Belgium defines R. (on the application of World Uyghur Congress) v National Crime Agency



New air-cargo route links China's Xinjiang, Britain

NAVIGATING IDENTITY FROM HONG KONG TO CANADA



Hong Kong Identity: A book review - Navigating Identity - From Hong Kong to China (reviewed by Larry Ngan)

Canada has had a long history of Hong Kong diaspora community since the 1980s. Vancouver for example is for long the favourite destination for migrants with Hong Kong origins. Richmond, which used to be largely associated with agriculture, became 'North America's most Asian city' according to BBC in 2012¹. Canadian tertiary institutes were famous for their detailed studies on different communities in the country, so they made significant contributions to Hong Kong history, and it would not be surprising that a new research project on the Hong Kong Canadian diaspora is being undertaken under such circumstances. As one said "If you do not know where you come from, you do not know where you are going."²

'Navigating Identity: From Hong Kong to Toronto' is a pristine example. It was published by Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library, with support from the University of Toronto School of Cities as Graduate Fellows Knowledge Mobilization Project 2023-24. It is a collection of articles from a selected group of Hong Kong Canadians, coming from a diverse social background. They're recent arrivals from Hong Kong to those born and bred in Canada with a Hong Kong heritage, and from students to professionals and founders of charities, singletons and families.

The articles covered a variety of topics rather than single-minded focused on the cultural differences: How food culture impacted the adaption of the style of living in Canada, how pop culture is a medium to express themselves, how cultural differences impacted the interaction of Hong Kong Canadians with the rest of communities, how they need to adjust to their career since their professional qualification back in Hong Kong may not be recognised in Canada, how the change of racial relationships changes over time, and how some came to terms

Remember our front-page article on the new freight route between Xinjiang and the UK landing in Bournemouth? It could not have been unknown to the airport's owners or import companies that there is a severe legal risk given the deal was struck as two significant legal cases were pursued in UK courts.

Now, recall that the Liberal Democrats once led in engaging private enterprise to do stricter due diligence. The Modern Slavery Act and the Anti-Slavery Commissioner we co-produced in government made companies think twice about their goods and services. Empowered by citizens with the votes, we should re-engage in anti-modern slavery legislation and close down further loopholes.

Finally, all the talks about resilience will be futile if we or like-minded partners cannot manufacture the goods we require or develop our critical infrastructure. Correspondingly, if we isolate our strategy and rely on China for our energy transition, we cost our partners the equal opportunity to work together to build a supply chain.

We must rebuild our global standing. China's Belt and Road Initiative ('BRI') may have built some white elephants in the African continent. Regardless, I have seen on my recent trip to Tanzania that even though BRI highways may not be paved to long-lasting standards, the Chinese were the only investors in these much-needed highways. For decades, many of our foreign assistance packages had failed because there was no infrastructure to deliver them in time.



We must comprehensively admit our lack of strategy. At the same time, while we distaste isolation policies, to sustain liberal democracy, we must recognise that free trade cannot be at the expense of fair trade.

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on their identity of being 'too native' to be Chinese, but 'not native' enough to be Canadian.

The presentation of the articles was a bit like an exhibition in an art museum, except it is presented with words instead of portraits. The main theme of the whole collection is The identity of Hong Kong Canadians. There are some good quality articles, such as the 'New, Life, Migration', which detailed how they viewed their identity, and their views on Canada from 3 different points of view from the same family; and the 'Winter Solstice' which described the recent arrivals thoughts on migrating from one country to the other, and how she used her culinary skills to resolve how she missed Hong Kong.

Although the style of writing from some articles in the collection is contradicting, they're interesting. Such as 'A Diasporic Hongkonger, A Social Worker, And Someone Who Persists' " a more political literature style of writing; while 'My "Three in One" Life - Painting, Writing, Music' reads more like a charity profile on an annual report, detailing how the charity grows and its potentials in the future. There is nothing wrong with their writing styles because they reflected their experiences in Canada. While other articles in the collections are about the journey of the Hong Kong Canadians living in the country, these 2 articles seemingly pulled us into another angle on how the Hong Kong Canadian community originated and evolved.

Speaking as someone moving from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom back in the 2000s, these articles reminded our daily struggles in coming to terms with living in a completely different country, and this is not Hong Kong. The food culture is different, the local communities speak languages other than Cantonese, the communication is different, and finding friends became a struggle because of cultural differences (Particularly for LGBT communities). These created a sense of insecurity and it would take years for anyone to overcome, some succeeded, some may fail and return to Hong Kong.

1. BBC News: 'Canada prepares for an Asian Future', 25th May 2012. Link: [Canada prepares for an Asian future - BBC News](#)
2. Venus Cheung, 'Shared Languages', edited by Mitchell Ma, *Navigating Identity: From Hong Kong to Canada*, Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library & Mitchell Ma, 2024, Page 32-33.

◆ A Resilient UK Industrial Strategy

What are the national security implications, if any, if we are to greatly rely on Chinese products in our energy transition?

Since our fringe discussion, the Appeals Court had passed judgement two judgements related to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and goods from Xinjiang. In both cases, the Court acknowledges that human rights violations are “far-reaching” but that the threshold for “criminal property” is extremely high. It is why we have been advocating for simultaneous consumer conscience and the passage of more targeted import legislation like the Xinjiang (Prohibition) Bill and calls for a reverse burden of proof that products are not tainted by forced labour.

In the Parliamentary report, [Never Again: The UK's Responsibility to Act on Atrocities in Xinjiang and Beyond Contents](#), solar energy, agriculture and electronics are marked as areas with a substantial risk of forced labour.

Surely, we do not want fear-creating rhetoric and unwarranted adversaries through misunderstandings. Although it is hardly the time to roll out the red carpet when we know Beijing's close ties with Russia, ignorance to Chinese companies curtailing UN sanctions and the acceptance that crimes against humanity had been conducted through labour camps in Xinjiang on Muslim minorities.

EVs are not simply a car with four wheels. BYD makes marvellous electric vehicles which feed data into transport planning and NIO is even a lifestyle club.

Firstly, how secure are our citizen's data held by Chinese companies? Putting aside whether the Chinese government demands these data at their pleasure, we know Chinese tech companies are less stringent in protecting and anatomising data. The Information Commissioner's Office had fined Tiktok £12.7 million for misusing children's data. With the prevalence of sensors and cameras in EVs, how much further can legislation and regulatory scrutiny go into protecting data if Chinese companies take no initiative to morally respect the data of our private citizens?

Secondly, with the amount of offsite controls a company can exert on EVs, can we rely on Chinese EVs not to exert an unfair advantage in the control of running of these vehicles? In the world of Internet-of-Things, you may see your personal data as of minuscule concern by willingly trading it off to Whatsapp or Wechat. However, if the car is connected to critical infrastructures like the public transport network and it can adapt its behaviour which can communicate with emergency services (think ambulances and police), that matters to national security.

In the early months of Russia's war on Ukraine, Russian invasion forces raided a major agricultural warehouse of John Deere tractors in Southern Ukraine. The Russians thought they could steal these off to Chechnya, but a kill-switch was activated rendering these tractors useless. We want co-existence with China. However, what if the situation calls for we need to defend the democracy of Taiwan due to Beijing's aggression? Further, what happens if Beijing further deepens its ties with Russia and actively engages on the War on Ukraine? Rightfully, car manufacturers require two-way communication with modern EVs as technological advancement to improve our lives. However, even if the challenging situations with China do not come into full frustration, the more we depend on products that can be controlled by the Chinese state, or Chinese enterprises that are mostly all heavily influenced by the Chinese state, the more likely we can be held to ransomed and deprive us of the will to assist our allies.



Above: Taipei's liberty square and Taiwanese aboriginals whose culture is distinctively different to that of Chinese cultures, enjoying a dance.

Are we then adversely disadvantaging China given our continuous arguments on confronting disadvantageous free trade? Probably not. Western EVs such as Tesla that are sold in China are killed off by the Chinese state if they approach a military-sensitive area. Cars are switched off if President Xi is visits an area. Furthermore, Tesla isn't allowed to send data of Chinese citizens back to the US for analysis. All Chinese data has to stay within China. Conversely, Chinese national security laws demands that its companies handover data both within and outside of China if the state calls for it. It's fair we employ our industrial strategy to ensure resilience.

Are there opportunities for Chinese businesses that may want stability to find opportunities for their investments in free and open societies? Where they invest in Europe, can it conform with a resilient UK industrial strategy?

“It is urgent that we educate ourselves and we need an industrial strategy. The Chinese strategy encompasses the economy, politics and industrial development. But we lack a strategy. We seem to be stuck in an ideology that dates back to the Thatcher and Regan era and one that is hollowed out of our industries by de-industrialisation and doesn't have a defense mechanism against the dependencies that we have created. And until that we recognise that, we won't be able to formulate a coherent response.” - Isabel Hilton.

Conclusion

When we speak of a resilient UK Industrial strategy, it is only one string of resilient networks within our borders that must be compatible with our partners to form many resilient networks. We spoke of our initial ignorance to a defensive mentality as we opened up free trade at the expense of fair trade. In the case of Hamburg, we have seen how hard it is to wean us off dependency once it has settled in. We also discussed the pros and cons of depending on private enterprise for supply chain due diligence. What is certain is that there is no one golden solution. Not least, the beginning of solutions is not even here yet. Nevertheless, progress to resilience is achievable and we are making progress.

We learn of Beijing's leverage, its foreign policy stance like allowing Hong Kong to be used as an intermediate for sanctioned goods to assist Russia's war on Ukraine and Beijing's misinterpretation of international treaties like Hong Kong's Joint Declaration & UN 2758; our ignorance to a defence mechanism increases global risk and miscalculations.

If we want liberal democracy to thrive, we must alleviate Beijing's aggression, which certainly did not only just begin with President Xi.



Larry Ngan @ the Federal International Relations Committee

Prepared by Larry Ngan. A report on my work within the Federal International Relations Committee

I was elected to the Federal International Relations Committee (FIRC) in early 2023. Since then, I had a fruitful experience. It was an honour to serve in FIRC and this is the best experience I had in the party since I joined in 2017.

As an elected member of FIRC, I have 2 major objectives to accomplish: 1. To advise the party on foreign policies; 2. To build connections with our sister parties, foreign representatives and other organisations which are related to international affairs.

Throughout these 1.5 years, I was elected to be the Vice Chair of the China Sub-Committee within FIRC and was involved in advising FIRC on foreign policies. One of my first tasks after joining FIRC was to review the motions on China for the ALDE conference 2023. I was also involved in advising the Emergency motion for the Autumn Conference 2023, and Amendment 3 of F23. The emergency motion was to formulate the China policy within our party, and amendment 3 was to insert a clause in our manifesto on tackling the challenges from authoritarian regimes such as Russia and China. Unfortunately, the emergency motion was not selected for debate, but most of the terms in the emergency motion had been adopted in our manifesto for General Election 2024.

I was also involved in welcoming our guests from foreign representatives in the 2023 Autumn Conference and had some very interesting conversations. It was a refreshing experience to exchange ideas on international policies, and it was very helpful to develop our foreign policies in the future.

With the Autumn Conference 2024 and ALDE Conference Portugal coming, I very much look forward to interacting with the representatives of our sister parties and working with my colleagues in FIRC in the coming year. This is such an exciting experience and I hope I can continue to contribute to the party in this role for the rest of this 3 year term. Thank you for all your trust and support!

Our first year as an AO

Prepared by Nicholas Chan. The Liberal Democrats Friends of Hong Kong was established at the Spring 2022 Conference. At Spring Conference 2023, we held our 1-year-old AGM.

As we wrapped up our first year at Spring Conference 2023, we worked hard beyond expectations and squeezed in a full programme at the Conference. At AGM, we invited Mr. Callum Robertson to talk about what can be done to attract HK teachers to the UK and the support they'll need as they settle into the UK profession. Student activists have always been a pillar of HK's democratic movement. From Martin Lee who helped grow Hong Kong's student movement for more democracy and freedom in China, to student-led vigils for Tiananmen victims and to the 2014 & 2019 city-wide protests, HK youths actively participated in politics. This surely is influenced by the many hard-working teachers in HK. Since Beijing imposed the National Security Legislation, many teachers have left the sector and settled in the UK through the British National (Overseas) visa scheme.

Callum reminded us of the diversity in the teaching profession and how this stimulates the virtues of British values.

We also invited renowned academic on geopolitics, climate change and China, Ms Isabel Hilton to join Cllr Irina Von Wiese on a talk about trade resilience. EVs from China may be built well and are shifting into the European markets. At the same time, our climate change policy will require a move to electric vehicles. But are Chinese EVs fairly competing with cars produced by the UK & European workforce? More importantly, what are the national security concerns of Chinese-made EVs? (read more about this topic on page 5)

Moving towards the beginning of our second year is the General Election. Our candidates lead teams to 4 target seats and all of these now have a strong Liberal Democrat MP.

And don't forget our year-long campaign and policy victory on helping HK youths gain a new pathway to the BN(O) visa scheme. In liaison with cross-party advocates, this policy allows for many HK youths who are lingering in asylum applications to have a clear pathway to permanent residence in the UK.

Read about our casework on "Emily" which helped brought this success by scanning this QR code



Victory!!!



Remember at Autumn Conference '23 we reported we had a meeting on 21st June with the Immigration Minister?

OUR MEETING IS A SUCCESS! HK Youths who applied for asylum can now have a pathway to the British National (Overseas) visa. We've fixed this anomaly and more!

Support F35 motion in the auditorium!

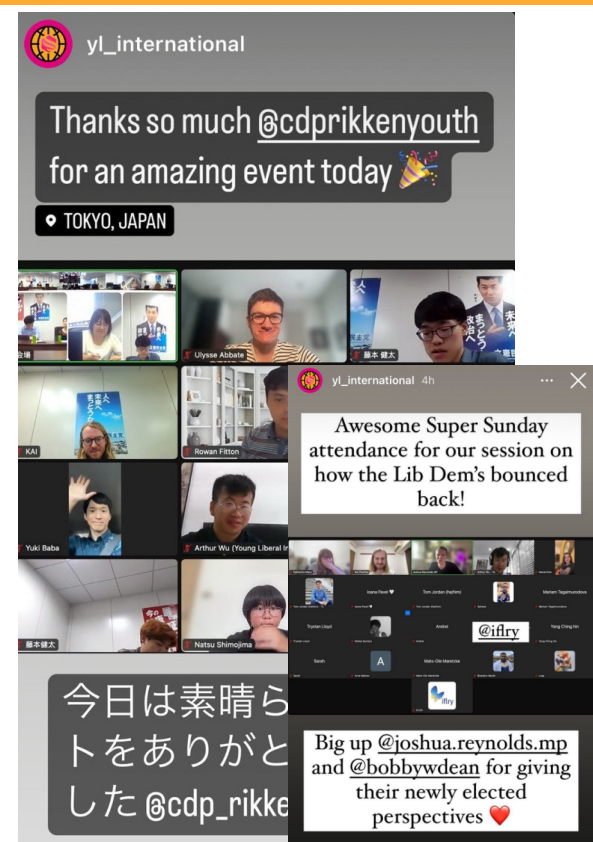
- It builds on the International Security Paper ('ISP') published in Spring 2023.
- **We know the ISP is greatly welcomed in the General Elections. We have phone calls after phone calls congratulating us on the manifesto and mentioning how we're spot on in mentioning banning imports from areas with egregious abuses such as Xinjiang, using international sanction regimes to stand up against human rights abuses, and restoring Britain's international position which will protect British Nationals and vital economic partnerships with democratic countries threatened by China.**

Advocacy in youth organisations

Our youth champion and membership secretary Arthur Wu, had the privilege of presenting a critical motion to combat transnational repression in Asia, which received overwhelming support. The motion was a collaborative initiative with the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats Youth, or CALD Youth. I worked with them over the last few months as an International Committee Member. This motion sought to build momentum and raise awareness for CALD Youth's campaign against transnational repression.

Authoritarianism is an alarming trend that blurs the lines between domestic repression and distant coercion. Citizens seeking refuge abroad are no longer safe; they become targets for hostile regimes. Countries like China, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia exemplify this ruthless pursuit, as these governments extend their reach beyond their borders, undermining the democratic values we hold dear. The insidious nature of this repression breeds fear and distrust—not only for those directly targeted but for the communities that welcome them. It stifles free expression and silences political dissent, attacking the principles that unite us as advocates for liberty and justice.

As Liberals, we must be resolute: there is no room for authoritarianism in a democratic world. We reject the notion that anyone should face persecution for their beliefs. We must affirm the tenet of state sovereignty; no government should extend its reach to silence dissidents abroad. Together, let us stand firm against these violations of human rights and dignity, championing the values of freedom and democracy for all.



Please support Nicholas's campaigns with the Medway Liberal Democrats

Follow Nicholas Chan on Twitter [@nicholas_yhchan](#) | Vice-Chair of LD Friends of Hong Kong

We are progressing well to a come-back for residents in Medway Town. For too long, residents have struggled with neglect from the Medway Conservatives or over-ruled by Medway Labour. Take public pools as an example, **Medway Labour announced they'll increase family swim by 78%! Indeed, this is attributable to the financial blackhole left by the Conservatives.**

Please support me & my team by making a one-off donation

To make a [donation to the Medway Liberal Democrats](#) for

Nicholas's campaign, you may 

Scan the QR code or email Nicholas



libdems@nicholaschan.co.uk

for Medway LD's bank account details.



Medway Deserves Better! Medway residents need a return of Liberal voice in Council - a voice of local champions!

With your help, we can run a sustained campaign on issues that residents care; about because we're always out there to listen to them at the door. **We're a strong second in our target wards with increasing vote share.**



Mark Pack
Author, 101 Ways To Win An E

Holding off Reform with our neighbours

Lib Dems hold off Reform in Swale

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024 - 11:44 AM
Eight principal authority council by-elections. First up, one held unusually on a Tuesday, and



Election Maps UK
@electionmapsuk
Priority (Swale) Council By-Election Result:

- LDM: 42.5% (-12.1)
- RFM: 26.9% (New)
- CON: 20.6% (-3.5)
- LAB: 10.0% (-3.6)

No GRN (-7.6) as previous.
Liberal Democrat HOLD.
Changes w/ 2023.
Sep 3, 2024 at 23:25

BBC NEWS
Home | Israel-Gaza war | Cost of Living | War in Ukraine | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Culture
England | Local News | Regions | Kent

Medway Council: Lib Dems fight plans to scrap free swimming

4 days ago



Major press

By Robert Boddy
Local Democracy Reporting Service

Always on the doorsteps



Pressing Concerns on Hong Kong

Dear MPs,

It's a lovely year getting 72 Liberal Democrats MPs into parliament! We hope to work with you on alleviating concerns from the Hong Kong community in the UK and on human rights in China. Here are 3 pressing issues :

China flouting sanction regimes using Hong Kong to assist Russia's war on Ukraine

The Orlan-10 drone is heavily used by Russia in its illegal invasion of Ukraine. Components were at one time in short support to the Russian war machine. However, since February 2022, SMT-iLogic - a sanctioned Russian tech company - has been gaining vital components through front companies in purchasing from Hong Kong companies. These included Sinno Electronics with logical support from Asia Pacific Links. Is China turning a blind eye?

Bail 201 and hurdles switching to BN(O) visa

There's a huge backlog of HK youth's asylum claims. As you would have read from our yearly reports, we're part of advocates who successfully changed government policy so that all HK Youth with links to the UK through their parents as British subjects before 1997 will have a pathway to permanent residency in the UK. While this does not eliminate the need for HK activists who manage to flee to the UK to apply for asylum, a significant portion now have a more stable future. Still, we are hearing cases whereby Home Office caseworkers are not fully aware of the new policy. As such HK Youths face administrative hurdles such as misreading the Bail 201 and HK BN(O) visa policies and thereby rejecting the BN(O) visa based on that they have not fully withdrawn their asylum applications. Of course, these youths were at first asylum applicants as there were no other choices before the government accepted our calls for a change of visa policy. Since the policy has changed, caseworkers should be well briefed to facilitate HK youth to move on to the BN(O) visa policy. We ask MPs to follow up on the SSHD and call on the SSHD to write to HK asylum applicants and challenge the HKBNO team at the Home Office to give all assistance.

Rising costs for BN(O) visa which makes it redundant as a safe harbour scheme

Immigration Health Surcharge has risen sharply in the Conservatives years. A family of 4 is now expected to contribute more than £20,000 upfront on the visa applications. This is in addition to the fact that newly arrived families continue to contribute to National Insurance. HK may be a wealthy city but not all those who want to flee the city have the means to do it. What good is a safe harbour scheme if it only considers your chequebook?



◆ Empowerment

Campaigning at GE 2024 & More

Our party enjoyed a record-breaking result in the last General Election! With 72 MPs, not only we're now a major opposition, but we also had an influx of new MPs sitting on the benches and parliamentary standing committees where policies are made.

So how did our AO participate in this General Election?

1. We have 2 PPCs standing in this GE:
 - a. Larry Ngan, our chair, stood in Folkestone and Hythe
 - b. Nicholas Chan, our vice chair, stood in Chatham and Aylesford
2. We are helping other PPCs in key marginals for canvassing, like door knocking and delivery
3. We also aided PPCs with queries for hustings preps involving Hong Kong communities.



"It's a privilege to stand as a liberal candidate and be reminded that democracy cannot be taken for granted. Like all Hong Kongers, we grew up in very transformative times where not only freedom cannot be taken for granted, but it is something to fight for."

And what a fight it was to fly the liberal flag and lead a team to help in 4 target seats - and they're now all Liberal Democrat MPs. It motivates me to take a step up in the next GE. - Nicholas



"It was an honour to stand as an LD PPC for F and H. We did not win this seat but we fought hard to hold Tory into account for polluting our coasts, reducing our NHS budget, and doing little to resolve the cost of living crisis."

Looking forward to running as a PPC again in the next election" - Larry

Can you help with Fleet?



Can you give the Libdems HK team a hand in getting our website up and running on Fleet?

If you can help out, please give a call to [Larry Ngan](mailto:larrynganlibdems@gmail.com)

email; larrynganlibdems@gmail.com
Mobile: 07801 736676



Strengthening Liberal Democracy

Are you and Exec in your Local Party?

The LibDemsHK have a Campaign Drive

For HK communities. Get in touch with info@friendsofhongkong.org.uk



Would you support our advocacy on human rights?

We seek to empower citizens both in the UK and aboard. In the past 5 months since the birth our new Affiliated Organisation (AO), we had held debates on *A China Strategy*, helped in the Local Elections and worked on amendments to the illiberal "Illegal Migration Bill". At every juncture, Liberals enter the arena to empower.

Through asylum casework, we also empower advocates for safe routes! No HK or Ukrainian had ever to travel on small boats. That's because of our liberal, compassionate policies granting safe harbour to all who needed it.

We shall continue our support in justice, promoting a way of life in a liberal democracy.

Last but not least, we support the powerful citizen, not the powerful state. Your contribution means every bit in our work on Empowerment, Justice & Rights.



The LibDemsHK team is ready to help local parties on HK BNOs



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Download our [Membership form \(by clicking\)](#) / scanning the QR code. Thank you for your support!

Don't hesitate to drop us an email ◆