

Request to the Hong Kong Government regarding the Pro-Democracy Movement in Hong Kong

In accordance with social work values and ethics based on social justice and respect for human rights, the Japanese Federation of Social Workers (JFSW) issues the following statement concerning the position of the Hong Kong Government with regard to the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong.

Fueled by the enactment of an extradition bill and a following legislation banning masks, the social conflict between the pro-democracy movement and the Hong Kong Government has been continuously growing.

On November 18, 2019, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, a focal point for student demonstrators protesting the Hong Kong Government, was the stage for a violent confrontation between barricading students and the police. As part of later developments, reports express the view that crack downs on demonstrators will further intensify in light of the appointment of a new Commissioner of Police heading the Hong Kong Police Force.

Also, on August 31, 2019, several social workers were unjustly arrested while mediating between the police and demonstrators in a protest.

In view of the above situation, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the Hong Kong Social Workers Association (HKSWA) have issued statements aimed at the peaceful resolution of the situation.

Based on these events, JFSW strongly urges the Hong Kong Government to consider the following four points.

1. Immediately stop oppressive and violent responses towards the people's appeal by police authorities.
2. Take measures for solving problems through dialogue with the people according to democratic principles, and promptly present plans for building a Hong Kong society rooted in peace and trust.
3. Release social workers in detention without any delay.
4. Accept the position statement of HKSWA.

Furthermore, as members of IFSW, we acknowledge that we need to continue building solidarity in international society and engaging this problem.

November 21, 2019

Japanese Federation of Social Workers (JFSW)

Member organizations:

- Japanese Association of Social Workers (JASW)
- Japanese Association of Certified Social Workers (JACSW)
- Japanese Association of Social Workers in Health Services (JASWHS)
- Japanese Association of Psychiatric Social Workers (JAPSW)