



For Immediate Release

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HKDC: The New and Unified Voice for Hong Kong in DC

The new group is the first-ever on Capitol Hill dedicated to US support for Hong Kong democracy.

WASHINGTON, DC (September 16, 2019) – On Tuesday, [Hong Kong Democracy Council \(HKDC\)](#) launches as the unified and hopeful voice for Hong Kong democracy and human rights at a press conference steps away from the United States Capitol. Led predominately by Hong Kongers residing in the US - including veteran activists, leading academics, students and young professionals - **HKDC** is filling a political vacuum in US-Hong Kong relations amid ongoing pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and escalating threats to the city's basic freedoms and autonomy.

HKDC leaders will be joined by **Sen. Todd Young (IN)**, a member of the **Senate Foreign Relations Committee** and the **Congressional-Executive China Commission** and **Rep. Thomas Suozzi (NY)**, a member of the **House Foreign Affairs Committee** and a co-sponsor of H.R. 3289, *Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019*.

HKDC's mission "to preserve Hong Kong's basic freedoms, the rule of law, and autonomy as promised under the 'one country two systems' model and enshrined in the Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration is not new," said **Professor Anna Cheung, HKDC's founding board president** and founder of New Yorkers Supporting Hong Kong (NY4HK), "but the need for a group like HKDC has never been clearer, and the stakes for Hong Kong people and American's interests in Hong Kong have never been higher."

"The Beijing government cannot have it both ways. They registered the Sino-British Joint Declaration with the United Nations and lobbied Western governments to give Hong Kong its special status. That's why Congress enacted the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 and why we must advocate for the law to be updated and enforced," explained **Professor Victoria Tin-bor Hui, HKDC board member** and Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. "The Chinese government can't ask the world to continue to grant Hong Kong's special status while shunning international monitoring. Nor should the Chinese authorities continue to reap enormous economic benefits from the city's special status while repeatedly infringing on Hong Kong's autonomy."

"We are unified in the belief that the US has a moral and political obligation to preserve Hong Kong's basic freedoms and autonomy while protecting vital US national security and economic interests, including the 85,000 Americans based in Hong Kong," says **Samuel Chu, HKDC's managing director**, "we are committed to being the 'umbrella' group who will provide an independent platform for all pro-democracy, pro-Hong Kong voices in the US and in Hong Kong."

The organization is collaborating closely with leaders and activists spanning generations and the political spectrum that comprises Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement. A Hong Kong delegation will join the press conference including prominent activists **Joshua Wong, Bonnie Leung Wing Man, and Denise Ho Wan-sze (aka HOCC)**. **Wong**, the Secretary-General of Demosistō, was the subject of the 2017 Netflix documentary "*Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower*." He was jailed for six months in 2017 for his role in the Umbrella Movement in 2014 and arrested again in late August 2019 as part of a wave of mass arrests of pro-democracy leaders. **Leung**, an elected District Councilor and a member of Hong Kong's Civic Party, is the Vice Convener of Civil Human Rights Front, one of the groups that have organized peaceful marches of up to 2 million Hong Kongers since June. **Ho**, an award-winning Hong Kong-based singer, actress, and pro-democracy and LGBTQ rights activist, recently testified to the current threats to Hong Kong's basic freedoms and autonomy at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in July.



HKDC's [inaugural advisory board](#) includes **Nathan Law**, currently at Yale University, who first won an election to the Hong Kong Legislative Council in 2016. At age 23, he was the youngest Hong Kong Legislative Councilor in history. The Hong Kong government later challenged his seat and disqualified him from serving in July 2017 following Beijing's constitutional reinterpretation, despite international criticism. Law and fellow **HKDC** advisory member **Alex Yong-Kang Chow**, along with **Joshua Wong**, were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 by **US Senator Marco Rubio** and **US Rep. Chris Smith** for "their peaceful efforts to bring political reform and protect autonomy and freedoms guaranteed Hong Kong in the Sino-British Joint Declaration."

The advisory board features leading US academics and thought leaders on Hong Kong – including:

- **Professor Michael C. Davis**, Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center; Senior Research Scholar, Weatherhead East Asia Institute, Columbia University; former Professor of Law, University of Hong Kong
- **Professor Jerome A. Cohen**, a pioneer in the field of Chinese law and government; Professor of Law, NYU and Faculty Director, US-Asia Law Institute, NYU
- **Professor Larry Diamond**, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institute and Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies; former Director of the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law
- **Professor Andrew Nathan**, Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science, Columbia University; Board Member, National Endowment for Democracy; former Chair, Advisory Committee, Human Rights Watch, Asia
- **Professor Ching Kwan Lee**, Professor of Sociology, UCLA; Co-editor, "Take Back Our Future: An Eventful Sociology of the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement" (Cornell University Press, 2019)
- **Professor Thomas E. Kellogg**, Executive Director, Center for Asian Law at Georgetown; former Director of the East Asia Program, Open Society Foundations
- **Professor Sharon Hom**, Executive Director, Human Rights in China; Professor of Law Emerita at the City University of New York School of Law

After the press conference, guests and partners will join **HKDC** supporters at a [reception at 5 pm at Union Station](#).

WHAT: HKDC Launch Press Conference

WHEN: *Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 12:15pm-1:00pm EST.*

This event will start following the conclusion of the [Congressional-Executive China Commission hearing](#). Please proceed immediately from the hearing room to the event location. All speakers will be available for interviews after the formal press conference.

WHERE: The United Methodist Building, Capitol Hill, 100 Maryland Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002

[The event will be live here.](#)

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