



***For Immediate Release***

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**HKDC Priorities for the Biden-Harris Administration**

*Washington D.C. (January 20, 2021)* - Since the election was called last November, HKDC has shared with the Biden-Harris Transition team the critical importance of supporting and standing with Hong Kong starting on Day 1 of the new administration. Today, we witnessed the peaceful transfer of power and HKDC congratulates President Biden, Dr. Biden, Vice President Harris, and Mr. Emhoff.

President Biden, Vice President Harris, and key administration officials such as National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Secretary of State nominee Antony Blinken have all been clear in their support for the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong during the campaign and the transition. Now as they lead the country forward, the rhetoric must translate into actions.

In the coming months, HKDC will continue to work closely with Administration officials and our allies from both parties in Congress around our priorities:

**1. Continue to hold those responsible for the ongoing crackdown in Hong Kong accountable:**

- Consider additional targeted sanctions by fully utilizing the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, the Global Magnitsky Act, 7031(c) designations, and other relevant sanctions programs
- Instruct the Department of State to conduct and produce an updated, in-depth, actionable review and report on the conditions in Hong Kong within the first 100 days
- Appoint and designate a Special Coordinator for Hong Kong issues

**2. Protect Hong Kongers in Hong Kong and abroad:**

- Provide Hong Kongers who face well-founded fears of persecution an opportunity to emigrate from, or not be compelled to return to Hong Kong, including the use of humanitarian parole and Temporary Protective Status.
- Restore specific policies and programs benefiting Hong Kongers, such as treatment of Hong Kong as autonomous from the PRC for immigration and visa processing
- Promote civil society exchanges and academic freedom through student visas for Hong Kongers to study in the US, restoration of the Fulbright Program, and support of civic groups in Hong Kong

**3. Lead a joint response with international allies and like-minded partners to:**

- Coordinate targeted sanction schemes and safe harbor protections
- Reorient US' trade negotiation with the PRC and press our allies to focus on human rights in negotiating trade agreements with Beijing
- Rebuild a global market formed of democracies to reduce allies' and partners' reliance on the China market
- File a case before the International Court of Justice to hold the PRC accountable for violating its commitments in the Sino-British Joint Declaration
- Prioritize relevant agency reviews of China's global influence in international organizations and groups such as the United Nations, World Health Organization, etc.
- Urge like-minded nations' representatives to the United Nations to press for the appointment of a United Nations special mandate holder to report on Hong Kong's human rights developments
- Coordinate on policies and responses linking China's mass human rights violations in Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang, as well as the threats it poses to Taiwan

***Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)*** is a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Hong Kong's basic freedoms, the rule of law, and autonomy.

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