



***For Immediate Release***

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### **Significant Developments on U.S. Assistance to Hong Kongers**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 21, 2021) — Over the past year, HKDC has worked closely with both the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government to advance various policies aimed at protecting Hong Kongers who face the imminent danger of political persecution. On Tuesday, Sunny Cheung, a member of HKDC’s Advisory Board, testified at a [Congressional-Executive Commission on China \(CECC\) hearing](#) to promote two bipartisan immigration bills. On Wednesday, the Department of Homeland Security pre-published a [Federal Register notice](#) dated October 21, which details the implementation of employment authorization for eligible Hong Kong residents in accordance with President Biden’s August 5 memorandum.

In response to these favorable developments, HKDC issues the following statements.

From our Executive Director, **Brian Leung**:

“We welcome the notice by the Department of Homeland Security that provides much-needed clarity on employment authorization for eligible Hong Kongers who already benefit from their Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) status. The Hong Kong community in the U.S. has been yearning for a sense of stability, security, and financial independence, given the drastic deterioration in Hong Kong’s freedoms and the uncertainty of their own future. Facilitating their right to seek work legally marks a huge step forward in addressing their concerns.”

“Understanding that DED is temporary in nature, HKDC is committed to working with policymakers in Washington moving forward as we advocate further legislation that provides more permanent humanitarian pathways for Hong Kongers in need.”

From our Advisor, **Sunny Cheung**:

“Two days ago, I testified before the CECC as an activist-in-exile, urging legislators to offer humanitarian pathways for Hong Kongers who are threatened by the far-reaching political crackdown. In [my testimony](#), I called on Congress to pass the Hong Kong Safe Harbor Act and the Hong Kong People’s Freedom and Choice Act. I also pressed the Biden administration to expedite the asylum process for Hong Kongers and clarify its DED policy as soon as possible.”

“Today, our community is thrilled to welcome the actionable details delivered by the Department of Homeland Security. We are especially delighted to note its inclusive definition of Hong Kongers. Although this is a huge step forward, it must not be the last. I encourage the Biden administration to continue collaborating with private sectors and NGOs to develop community programs. The sooner Hong Kongers are able to weave our own safety net, the sooner we can contribute back to the country that embraces us with open arms.”

***Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)** is a Washington, D.C.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization for Hong Kong’s pro-democracy movement and Hong Kongers in the United States.*

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