

J. Motion to condemn Hong Kong police brutality and support students with connections to Hong Kong.

Owner: Markus Lee

In Effect From: Immediately

Review Date: 19 November 2019

It is noted that:

1. On Tuesday, 12 November 2019, hundreds of riot police from the Hong Kong Police Force stormed The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), firing over 1500 tear gas canisters and over 1300 rubber bullets on one of its campuses in Hong Kong.
2. Police could be heard firing their weapons near student residence continuously for around 15 minutes, arresting student protesters and leaving multiple students injured.
3. CUHK has cancelled all classes on Wednesday, 13 November 2019 for the third day in a row, claiming that there will be a high risk posed by ongoing clashes between protesters and the police on campus.
4. Hong Kong students constitute the fifth largest student population at St Andrews.
5. Oxford University Students' Union has passed a motion on 13th of November condemning Hong Kong Police brutality by an 85% majority.
6. Cambridge University Students' Union has released a public statement on 16th of November condemning police violence on student protestors in Hong Kong, and supporting Cambridge students who have been affected by online harassment during local protests.
7. The University of St Andrews has partnerships with Hong Kong University, and exchange students are currently still in Hong Kong.
8. The University of St Andrews has yet to publish a public statement condemning police violence in Hong Kong.
9. Students posting public opinions in support of Hong Kong protests on social media have been harassed online.

It is believed that:

1. The excessive use of police force on the CUHK campus was a direct assault to the academic community and posed a serious threat to the safety of students and staff.
2. It is an individual's fundamental human right to express their political opinions freely, without the risk of harassment or prosecution.
3. As a leading academic institution, the University of St Andrews should support the personal liberty and democracy of any global citizen, and should stand firmly with any member of the academic community that wishes to voice their political opinions.
4. A public statement from the Student Association will reinforce the institution's dedication to supporting students' educational, cultural and social development, and will encourage the University to condemn police brutality in Hong Kong.

It is resolved that:

1. The Association will publish a public statement condemning police brutality and supporting Hong Kong people's right to express their opinions freely.
2. The Association will publish a public statement condemning any online harassment on students who support the Hong Kong protests.
3. The Association will work with Student Services and Academic Staff to ensure sufficient support is available for students with connections to Hong Kong and students who were harassed for their public opinions supporting Hong Kong protests.

4. The Association will help circulate the petition to urge the university to release a public statement condemning police brutality in Hong Kong and supporting students with connections to Hong Kong.

Proposer

Proposed by Petition of 66 Signatures

Secunder

Markus Lee – SSC Societies Officer

Camila Duke – Rector's Assessor

Morgan Morris – Association Community Relations Officer