

FOREWORD

The Status of Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong, 1997 to 2014' ("the Report") is a compilation, synthesis and interpretation of research presently available that covers Hong Kong's ethnic minorities from the time of the return of Hong Kong to China to the present day. Shockingly, given the long and significant history of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, this is the first and only research of its kind to date.

The idea for this research was born by The Zubin Foundation seeking to understand the issues pertaining to ethnic minorities in Hong Kong only to find that the research was scattered and difficult to locate. With increasing interest in ethnic minorities on the part of the government at a policy and bureau level, civil society NGO's, schools, foundations, grant makers and employers, it seemed unbelievable that decisions about ethnic minorities and their needs, was not research driven.

Based on this, The Zubin Foundation, together with The University of Hong Kong's Centre for Comparative and Public Law, our research partner, decided to produce this Report. The Report has been funded by The Zubin Foundation together with a kind donation from Purvis and Rusy Shroff.

Perhaps what is most unique about this research is that both partners of this research are ethnic minority women who self define as "Hong Kong people". The recommendations therefore put forward are not only based on theory but also etched in personal and historical experiences.

What is clear from this research is that more work must be done to improve the lives of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, across all spheres of life. Above all we ask for the following:

1. That ethnic minorities themselves become champions for the plight of our communities. We must move away from the "immigrant mentality" and carve a legitimate space for ourselves in dialogue about Hong Kong. This is especially true for the business sector and others in positions of influence, who have traditionally had the ear of government. The discussion must be twofold (a) to assist those in our communities in need and (b) to include our voices in government in sub committees.
2. A review of the term "ethnic minority" which is demeaning, non specific and not inclusive.
3. That the Hong Kong SAR Government (a) sets up a high level multi departmental and multi disciplinary committee on ethnic minorities (b) considers ethnic minorities for positions on government advisory sub committees and (c) consciously includes the history of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong's history textbooks and government literature on Hong Kong.
4. Funding for research and thinking about ethnic minorities. Through this research we have been delighted at the high level of interest shown in learning more about ethnic minorities. Although there is funding available for projects and interventions there is almost none available for research and thinking. If the plight

of ethnic minorities is to change in Hong Kong, funding for research and thinking is critical.

We look forward to any comments or questions you may have and thank you in advance for your support.

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