



Hong Kong, 24 July 2019

Open Letter

The Honourable Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor
Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Central Government Offices
Tamar, Hong Kong

Email: ceo@ceo.gov.hk

Dear Chief Executive,

We, the members of Professional Commons and the Hong Kong Democratic Foundation, are deeply concerned over the escalation in violence on our streets, the tearing apart of our community, the loss of trust in our police, and the standstill in policy making.

The extradition bill saga has shown in spectacular fashion how the government, despite its many advisors, can find itself out of tune with the people of Hong Kong. This is clear evidence that the legislature, the Executive Council and the many other advisory bodies are not representative of the community.

You have expressed recognition of the problem. In the words of your Chief Secretary: "Government's future work will be closer and more responsive to the aspirations, sentiments and opinions of the community in order to reconnect with our people."

Now is time for action. To create the right mood for the dialogue to begin, we urge formal withdrawal of the extradition bill. The reluctance to use this word undermines the sincerity of the government's position. We also strongly recommend the establishment of a formal Commission of Inquiry headed by a senior Judge to consider all events arising from the extradition bill.

Moreover, government must take the strongest possible measures to deal with the 21 July terror attack on train passengers in Yuen Long, including a separate independent inquiry to investigate the causes of the incident and alleged failures in police response.

The immediate next step in this process must be to relaunch democratic reforms so as to elect the next Chief Executive by universal suffrage, to move decisively towards the same end for the Legislative Council, and to ensure that advisory bodies are representative and reflect the varying aspirations in the community. The successful development of 'One Country, Two Systems' stands and falls with the quality of our dialogue. Neither the Chief Executive nor the Central Authorities are well served when the people of Hong Kong are not properly represented.

We look forward to playing our part in the dialogue with you, and would be happy to arrange an opportunity for you to meet with our members for an exchange of views.

In the meantime we call on everyone to uphold our core values, exercise restraint and show compassion for our fellow Hongkongers.

Yours sincerely

Paul Zimmerman
Chairman
The Professional Commons
Hong Kong Democratic Foundation

敬啟者:

致行政長官的公開信

我們是公共專業聯盟和香港民主促進會的成員，我們非常關注近月來街頭的升級暴力事件、社會撕裂、對警察失去信心以及政策制定的停頓。

在反送中的一連串事件中，顯示政府即使有很多顧問提供意見，但始終跟香港市民的訴求脫節。這清楚證實了立法機關、行政會議和其他諮詢委員會都不能代表社會意見。

對於是次事件妳承認出現問題，而政務司司長亦表示：「政府對於未來社會的訴求、民情和民意，會更加貼近和響應大眾，重新與市民連接。」

我們認為現在是時候採取行動，為了營造合適的對話氣氛，我們促請政府正式撤回《逃犯條例》。特首不願用「撤回」一詞，大大削弱了政府的誠意。我們亦強烈建議成立由資深法官領導的正式調查委員會，去處理因修訂《逃犯條例》引起的一連串事件。

鑑於最新發展，政府必須對 7 月 21 日發生在元朗西鐵站的恐怖襲擊事件採取最有力的回應，包括成立另一個獨立調查委員會以了解事件的因由及對警方行動失誤的指控。

緊接下一步的行動是重啟民主改革以便落實雙真普選，推動香港於下屆實現行政長官和立法會的真普選，確保諮詢委員會具有代表性以及能反映社會不同訴求。「一國兩制」的成功發展有賴於我們對話的質素，當香港市民沒有適當代表時，意味行政長官和中央政府都難以做好本份。

我們期待與妳對話，希望能安排機會與我們各成員會面，交流意見。

於此同時我們呼籲所有人繼續維護我們核心價值，保持克制和對身邊的每一位香港人表達關懷。

此致

行政長官林鄭月娥

公共專業聯盟及香港民主促進會主席

司馬文先生

二零一九年七月二十四日