

JOURNALISTS IN EXILE

A SURVEY OF MEDIA WORKERS
IN THE HONG KONG DIASPORA





CONTENTS

- 2** Foreword
- 3** Introduction
- 3** Key Findings
- 4** Methodology
- 5** Survey results
- 6** Focus interviews
- 7** New diaspora media
- 8** Conclusion & IFJ recommendations
- 10** Appendix I: Hong Kong diaspora media
- 10** Appendix II: Hongkonger YouTube channels
- 11** Appendix III: Survey questions

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April 2023

1. FOREWORD

From 2020, a steady exodus began out of Hong Kong, as hundreds of activists, civil society members and everyday Hongkongers chose to leave their homes to establish new lives abroad.

A precursor to this was the ongoing erosion of political and civil liberties in the territory, which further accelerated in the wake of the 2019 anti-extradition law protests. By 2020, the Beijing-imposed National Security Law delivered immediate and devastating effects on Hong Kong's media. Intimidation, harassment and high-profile legal struggles faced by key media leaders like Jimmy Lai and outlets Apple Daily, Stand News, and others sent a clear message to those not yet targeted and only served to intensify the outward flow.

The struggles of Hong Kong's independent media during this period is well documented by a stable of brave journalists and media observers and experts, including those writing in IFJ reports *Lights Out: Is This The End of Press Freedom in Hong Kong?* in February 2022 and *The Story That Won't Be Silenced: Hong Kong Freedom of Expression Report 2022* in December 2022.

According to the British Home Office, over 130,000 Hongkongers applied for entry to the United Kingdom between 2021-2022 using British National Overseas (BNO) passports, a document allowing Hongkongers to apply for a five-year residency program in the United Kingdom. But that increasingly became a gateway to British citizenship for Hongkongers with a UK policy change on January 31, 2021. Again on February 24, 2022, the program was further expanded to allow adult children of eligible residents to also apply independently.

Others also settled in Canada, Australia, Taiwan and many other countries, with several immigration schemes, support programs and avenues for permanent residency either established or prolonged for desperate Hongkongers looking to leave the city.

As exiled media workers begin to make their way in new homes and countries, Hong Kong exile civil society organisations also blossomed. Globally, journalist unions in the countries experiencing the influx are also beginning to explore how best to respond to and support this growing cohort of media workers in their midst.

The Association of Overseas Hong Kong Media Professionals (AOHKMP), who led this research, is a newly-established organisation endeavouring to pick up some of the responsibility, to advocate for and represent Hong Kong's media professionals now living outside the city.

The IFJ hopes this report and its recommendations can encourage some necessary conversations and inspire strategies and innovative programs from governments, unions, funders and media development organisations to support Hong Kong's journalists and diaspora media outlets endeavouring to deliver independent reporting on greater China and to keep their story going.

The IFJ would like to thank and acknowledge the work of the researchers and the brave Hongkongers who shared their stories to make it possible.

- IFJ Asia-Pacific



2. INTRODUCTION

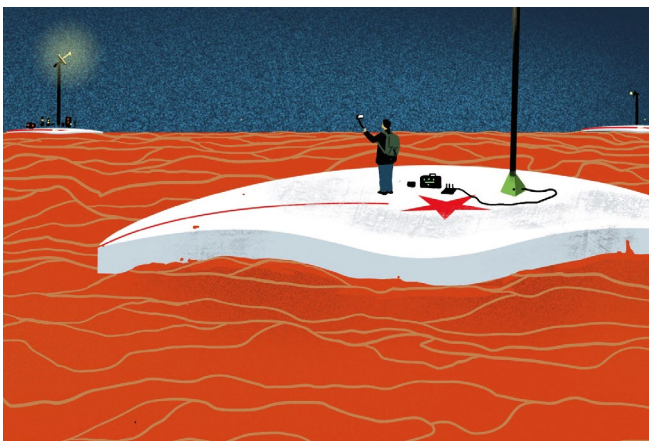
A new Hong Kong diaspora community upward of 300,000 people is forming following the 2019 mass protests against the extradition bill and the 2020 implementation of the National Security Law in Hong Kong. Those who have left Hong Kong include experienced members of civil society such as politicians, non-government organisation (NGO) workers, activists as well as journalists.

There was no prior assessment to reference when determining the number and conditions of journalists who have moved overseas in the past few years. This research was led by the Association of Overseas Hong Kong Media Professionals (AOHKMP) and undertaken by trusted journalists and provides a glimpse into the demographic, working conditions, and hopes and challenges of diaspora journalists, many of whom are no longer working in the industry owing to a string of factors.

This report also details the efforts of former Hong Kong based journalists residing abroad to promote press freedom by continuing to provide news services to audiences in Hong Kong and beyond. The research shows that many journalists are now consciously seeking to maintain the tradition of a free press and fill the gap of heavily restricted information flows in Hong Kong under the current regime.

In conducting this work, the research team has identified some of the obstacles for former Hong Kong journalists to interact with media career prospects in their countries of relocation.

It is the researchers' hope that this information will be useful to enable government, media funders and donors and other unions and non-government organisations to better allocate resources and funding for Hong Kong's media diaspora.



The research shows that many journalists are consciously seeking to maintain the tradition of a free press and fill the gap of heavily restricted information flows in Hong Kong under the current regime.

3. KEY FINDINGS

Through this study, the researchers found that Hong Kong journalists began to leave the city en masse in 2020, likely in the hundreds.

In descending order, they have moved to the UK, by far the most popular choice due to the British government's BN(O) visa scheme, followed by Canada and Taiwan, and the remaining to Australia, the US and other countries.

Key findings and observations of journalists surveyed:

- Many journalists had less than ten years' experience, while many had more than 20 years' experience under their belt, those in between were a relatively smaller group.
- Two-thirds of respondents were not working in the media industry after moving overseas. As expected, language was the main challenge.
- Other obstacles identified for not remaining in the industry were lack of knowledge and interest in local news, industry connections and opportunities, the urgent need to sustain a livelihood in their new country, and burnout.
- Many respondents believed that they simply would not be able to fit into a local media working environment, except for those in Canada, which does have an established Chinese-language media.
- Some respondents said that if their financial situation allowed for it that they may study a course or a master's degree in order to switch lanes into a new industry gradually; if not, they would have to look for other work outside media to make ends meet.
- For the one-third of journalists surveyed who were able to continue working in the media industry, opportunities varied from country to country. Some were working at public broadcasters in the UK and Australia; some in Canada could find jobs in established local Chinese-language media; new smaller-scale diaspora media outlets were starting to emerge in new communities internationally and providing an opportunity for work; and some were working or wanting to work as freelancers or part-time journalists.
- New diaspora media were facing common challenges such as funding issues. Many of the new platforms are running on an initial seed fund which can sustain them short-term and they are under pressure to perform well to gain subscribers to continue their operations.
- Staff shortages and journalists being separated geographically in different locations globally also creates a major logistical challenge for coordinating media reporting safely and securely.



4. METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted using a two-tier approach. The first tier of the survey consisted of a series of 12 brief questions in a questionnaire.

The researchers received 101 anonymous (but verifiable) responses from the United Kingdom, Canada, Taiwan, the United States, and Australia, which have become the main countries attracting Hong Kong emigration. Researchers adopted snowball sampling whereby survey respondents were asked to pass on the survey to other people who they believe would be suitable participants.

For the second tier, 12 participants were chosen from the first-tier survey to conduct in-depth interviews, in order to better understand the challenges media workers were encountering when beginning their media careers in their new home countries, as well as the factors that made them choose not to continue their journalism career.

Challenges

Some former Hong Kong journalists who moved overseas mistakenly believed that if they had left the industry, they should not fill in the survey. Upon explanation by researchers, some of them were willing to participate. However, it was difficult to estimate how many people did not take part due to this misconception.

Some former Hong Kong journalists who moved overseas did not take part in the survey because of security concerns.

It is interesting to note that the researchers were not able to reach out to a higher number of interviewees who were in mid-management when they were working in Hong Kong media. The researchers were only able to speak to one interviewee in Taiwan.

The researchers were not able to interview a higher number of photographers, videographers or camera people.

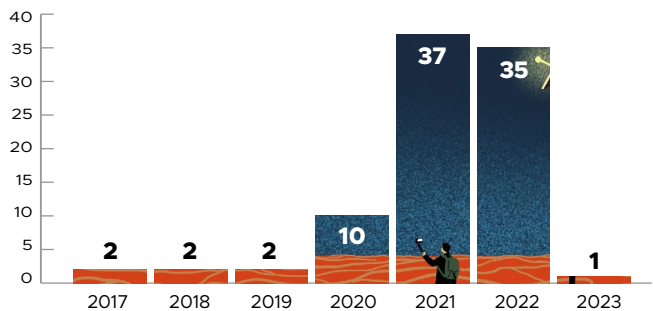


The research shows that many journalists are consciously seeking to maintain the tradition of a free press and fill the gap of heavily restricted information flows in Hong Kong under the current regime.

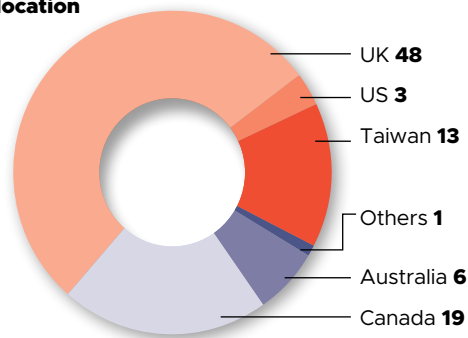
5. SURVEY RESULTS

Between December 17, 2022, and February 20, 2023, the researchers gathered 101 survey responses. Of these, 90 were valid responses, inclusive of those who failed to answer some of the questions towards the end of the survey. In open-ended questions, some respondents gave unclear answers and such responses were therefore discarded.

Year of leaving Hong Kong (N=89)



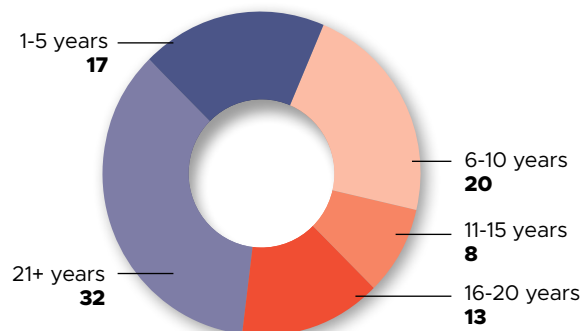
Current location (N=90)



Job role previously held in Hong Kong (N=90)



Experience or time in the industry (N=90)





ABOUT THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- 30 respondents said they were confident working in a non-Chinese speaking environment, while 60 said they were not.
- 59 respondents said they were currently not working in the media industry. They included eight students, three retirees, and 13 unemployed. Others were engaged in a wide range of other jobs including freelancer, public relations, marketing, YouTuber, barista, car repairer, speech pathologist, florist, waitress, hotel receptionist and homemaker, among others.
- Of these respondents, 32 said they were not seeking employment in the media sector, while 23 said they were looking for media work.
- 31 respondents said they were currently working in the media sector. Most said they were journalists, reporters or writers, with a handful saying they were editors or producers. Others included broadcast or online program hosts, as well as commentators. Some of them said they were freelancers or part-time journalists.
- Of the 31 currently working in media, 12 said they worked for a platform/organisation established by Hongkongers; 15 said they were not.
- 72 respondents said they were not planning to return to Hong Kong in the near future; 10 said they were planning to do so.
- 81 respondents said they did not regret their decision to move overseas; one respondent said they regretted the choice.

Analysis

In general, the data matches the general perception among Hongkongers that most media workers who left within the past five years went to Canada, the UK and Taiwan matching the documented immigration outflows.

A large number of respondents had between one to 10 years' experience in the media, and another larger group had more than 20 years' experience. There were fewer respondents with 11 to 20 years' experience.

There are two possible explanations for this age distribution but it is not possible to be definitive on this matter:

- Younger and more inexperienced journalists may be more likely to leave, instead of those in middle management; or,
- Researchers could not connect with those in the 11 to 20 years' experience bracket.

While a considerable proportion of the respondents were reporters and editors, there were many who answered

"others" in their past roles. A greater number of options in the survey in terms of job roles, could have shed more light on their roles in the journalism industry, for example as social media executives, commentators, columnists, YouTubers, and documentary makers, among others.

Two-thirds of the respondents said they were not comfortable working in a non-Chinese speaking environment, and close to two-thirds were not currently working in the media sector. Less than half of these respondents wish to return to the sector. These are discussed in the next section.

Even for those currently working in the media sector, about one-third said they were working for a platform or organisation established by Hongkongers, and 15 said they were not. But as more platforms and organisations established by Hongkongers emerge, there is potential that more people are likely to begin to work for them.

The vast majority of respondents said they were not planning to return to Hong Kong, and that they did not regret their decision to move overseas.

Limitations

In the process of sending out the survey to potential respondents, the researchers noted that some journalists were not willing to participate in the survey. Upon enquiry, some explained that they felt they had already left the industry and were not prepared to enter the journalism industry again. Upon explanation by the researchers, some were willing to participate. However, it was difficult to estimate how many people did not take part due to similar misconceptions.

Others explained that they were considering going back to Hong Kong, and they believed it may be sensitive to take part in the survey. The researchers had no mitigation measures for this other than explaining that the survey was completely anonymous and that the data for the survey would be kept securely.

6. KEY FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS

Continuing journalism in different forms

It is very hard to provide a precise estimate of the number of Hong Kong journalists living in exile but the research, plus anecdotal evidence and other sources, suggest that hundreds of former Hong Kong journalists are now living overseas, and that many more are continuing to leave the city.

Among those who moved overseas in recent years, there were several ways for them to continue working in journalism, namely public broadcasters, Chinese-language media, and newly founded Hong Kong diaspora media.

Public broadcasters

With Chinese-language skills, and specific knowledge of Hong Kong and the diaspora community, public broadcasters welcomed overseas Hong Kong journalists when job opportunities arose. Examples include the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Asia (RFA) which hired Hong Kong journalists in the UK, as well as the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) in Australia.

While these services would post job opportunities publicly, in some cases, they relied on word of mouth or referral by other journalists when they wished to recruit journalists with



Chinese-language skills and knowledge of Hong Kong. For instance, one journalist secured a freelance role at the BBC after being highly praised for coverage outside the Manchester Chinese Consulate General, capturing scenes of an attack on a Hong Kong protester by Chinese diplomatic staff.

Established local Chinese-language media

In terms of diaspora media, Canada is a relatively special case, as there has been waves of migration from Hong Kong since the 1980s, contributing to a media scene for Hongkongers who moved there over this period. There are a number of existing Chinese-language news outlets which have been running for decades – some print, radio and television.

A Hong Kong journalist who came to Canada in 2020, who used to be a feature reporter, now works at a local Chinese-language radio station. To her, it was “not difficult” to secure a job in the local Chinese-language media. Even though she did not think she had good English, there was no barrier at all for her to continue working as a reporter.

New Hong Kong diaspora media

Hong Kong journalists who migrated overseas in the past few years all witnessed the rapid decline in press freedom in Hong Kong, and some were passionate to continue reporting on Hong Kong in a free and safe environment, taking advantage of being based in countries which enjoy far better freedom of expression. Please see the next section and Annex 1.

Self-run media operations and online platforms

Some Hong Kong journalists who moved overseas have started their own, in some cases highly successful, Facebook pages to provide news reportage, analysis and commentaries. Some of these are outlined in Annex I.

Freelance work

Although some journalists had switched professions to work in other industries, they said they may return as freelancers or part-time journalists as and when opportunities arise. Hong Kong journalists who chose to study overseas may also continue to work as freelancers or part-time journalists.

While they were often not professional journalists, YouTube commentators who moved overseas were also a main source of information with sizeable audiences in Hong Kong and diaspora communities.

Main challenges

Overall, five factors appeared to impact overseas-based Hong Kong journalists when they considered whether they would continue their journalism careers.

1. Language skills

Most Hong Kong journalists worked in Chinese-language media in the city before they moved and few were confident working in a non-Chinese speaking environment unless they already had experience working in English-language media.

“There is no solution on the language issue. It is almost impossible for me to achieve a native speaker level of English,” one interviewee who was a producer for a Chinese-language current affairs program at the Hong Kong public broadcaster said.

2. Knowledge and interest in local news

Although Hong Kong journalists were adapting to their lives in their new countries quickly, some indicated it was difficult

for them to obtain a professional level of knowledge of the social, political and economic environments of that country, to a level comparable with native language job seekers in the domestic sphere.

Even if they were able to understand and report on local news, some did not have the same level of interest or passion in reporting on their new home countries if the new roles in journalism had nothing to do with Hong Kong or Greater China.

“A main challenge for me is that I need to understand the politics and constitution in Canada, which are different from Hong Kong and more complicated than Hong Kong,” said an interviewee who now works at a Chinese-language radio station in Canada.

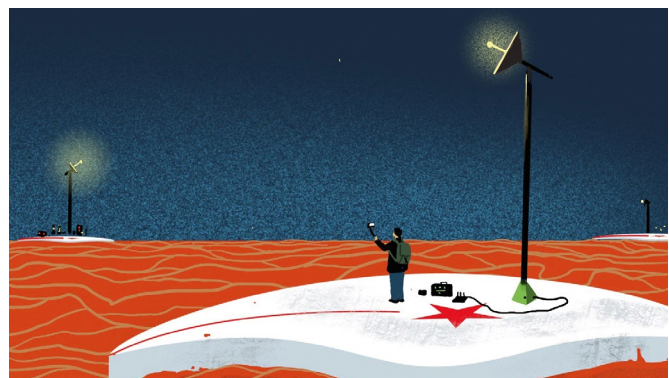
3. Connections and opportunities

As Hong Kong journalists start fresh in their new home countries, they still lack adequate connections in the local media industry to look for suitable roles for themselves, or even create such roles that did not exist beforehand. This results in missing opportunities that they are qualified for, without even knowing such opportunities existed.

“The gatekeeping process at local media outlets is difficult. The journalism jobs often went to those who are white and elite, and I am unable to fit in,” said an interviewee in Australia, who was an English-language journalist in Hong Kong for a year, before going to Australia to study speech therapy in 2020.

In Taiwan, an interviewee said that Taiwanese media were not interested in hiring Hong Kong journalists unless they were hired specifically to cover Hong Kong or international news with their English-language skills. Such job vacancies were scarce in any case.

To date, newly-founded diaspora media have had to rely, to a large extent, on voluntary contributions and are keen to find out about external funding sources, but their progress is slow without connections and linkages to potential funders.



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Industry transitional training support would help enhance their professional skills in their new home countries. For example, unions could run training collaborations with public broadcasters to improve access and career transition.



4. Sustaining livelihood

One simple yet crucial factor for Hong Kong journalists when considering whether to continue their journalism careers overseas is whether they can earn enough to make a living.

Too often, journalism is a low-paid, high-workload industry which is forcing some to leave the profession as they struggle to restart their lives in their new home countries. Some only worked part-time in newly founded diaspora media being paid minimum wage, while also working in a second job to make ends meet.

“My wife has a full-time job. I have to take on the role of a homemaker to take care of our children. I can only work part-time in journalism if such an opportunity appears,” said an interviewee in the UK, who was a veteran journalist in Chinese-language media in Hong Kong with 20 years’ experience.

In Taiwan, younger Hong Kong journalists without assets could be forced to find other work to sustain themselves, since whether or not they can do so may affect an application for residency in the future. As such, they may be considering more stable jobs with better pay to ensure the success of a residency application. Whereas in other places such as the UK or Canada, job security was not a factor taken into account to obtain residency.

5. Burnout

Following mass social unrest in 2019 and the following Covid-19 pandemic in Hong Kong, some journalists who decided to leave the city are facing burnout, and in some cases mental health issues, making them unwilling to return to the industry even when they are in a safer environment overseas.

“I am no longer interested in journalism jobs after the past few years. The depressing atmosphere in Hong Kong and the poor management at my workplace under such an environment were simply too much,” said an interviewee who was an investigative journalist in Hong Kong. He moved to the UK in early 2023 and planned to study a master’s degree on the environment.

Views on media unions

Most interviewees did not have much knowledge of press unions in their new home countries. One interviewee in the UK knew of the local union, but was uncertain as to what kind of help she could seek.

It was the understanding of researchers that some Hong Kong journalists in the UK were in touch with local unions to secure press cards for their work, and there was an initiative by the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) in the UK to support and encourage membership in various ways. Some had tried to apply for relocation subsidies from the Reporters Without Borders.

Training needs

Many Hong Kong journalists in their new home countries will need training and support in the English language to be able to continue working in the media industry.

They also need bridging and educational opportunities to learn about the political, social and economic environment in their new home countries. Some said it would be beneficial to have events for Hong Kong journalists to meet local media and press unions to find opportunities for further cooperation. Moreover, industry transitional training support would help enhance their professional skills in their new home countries. For example, unions could run training collaborations with public broadcasters to improve access and career transition.

More research is still needed to assess numbers and needs of Hongkongers working in public broadcasters internationally.

Visa issues

There are existing open visa schemes for Hong Kong people to move to Australia, Canada, the UK, and Taiwan. In most cases, Hong Kong journalists are able to stay for several years, before applying for permanent residency. There is a need to emphasise the special needs of Hong Kong journalists to obtain visas if they fail to fulfil other criteria for entry.

7. NEW DIASPORA MEDIA

With a large number of Hongkongers moving overseas and the crushing of Hong Kong’s media freedom, many have realised the need for establishing diaspora media in migration hotspots. Since 2021, at least six new media outlets run by Hong Kong journalists have been established in the UK, Taiwan, Canada and Australia. Others are in the pipeline.

Many YouTube commentators have also moved overseas, providing their opinions on Hong Kong from afar. See a comprehensive guide to these outlets in Annex II.

Case study: The Points

Chinese-language media outlet The Points, which plans to have a substantial bilingual element, was founded in January 2022 by a group of Hong Kong journalists entirely based overseas to provide general news coverage of Hong Kong and the diaspora community. It is the only media organisation of this kind based in three geographical centres to provide a rolling 24-hour news service. It covers news in Hong Kong and Greater China, the UK and Europe, Canada and the US, as well as Australia.

The Points has two public faces, one of which is Finn Lau, a Hong Kong activist in exile serving as executive director. Researchers spoke to chief editor Jane Poon, another face of



this new media. Poon was a former head of digital news at Next Digital, the media group established by Jimmy Lai, that was forcefully closed by the Hong Kong government. Poon left Hong Kong for Australia in 2017 and was originally planning to retire.

Following the 2019 social movement and the crushing of media freedom in Hong Kong, she was interested in establishing a new media outlet to fill the gap in general news reporting in Hong Kong, after the loss of Apple Daily and Stand News, two main sources of daily news.

In Australia where Poon is based, there is the public broadcaster SBS as well as other existing commercial media which publish in Chinese. However, Poon noted that SBS faced limitations as only a portion of its news would be about Hong Kong and the diaspora community, and there have been complaints over the quality of local Chinese-language commercial media. One of the roles of new Hong Kong diaspora media would be to fill this void.

Challenges and vision

The Points has no more than 10 staff members, including reporters, designers and administrative staff. Poon said The Points started running much later than other diaspora media outlets because they had to sort out many issues before launching with a small number of staff members. With the lack of manpower, Poon admitted there had been some mistakes in the editorial process, which they hoped would be smoothed out.

Finding ways to reach a wider audience is of major concern to Poon. She hopes the news outlet can work together with other new media platforms and independent journalists, but the existing workload was already tough.

Funding is a main issue as the outlet only has an operational fund to sustain it for less than one year, she said. It runs a Patreon account with three tiers of subscription, namely USD6, USD24 and USD59 per month. It also asks for a yearly subscription with a goal of securing USD 320,000.



New Hong Kong diaspora media would need support in getting exposure in their new local environment, so that the relevant people — such as politicians, government workers, press unions and community stakeholders — would know of them, allowing them to get into the local press corps, Poon said.

But a month after it was launched, it had only achieved 1% of that goal.

“We wished to become a platform for people to speak out. This is our vision. But it’s far far away, not something we can achieve for now. We’ll see if we can generate more resources for us to help other independent media and independent journalists. But if we can’t survive ourselves, it’s only a vision,” said Poon.

Assistance required

To Poon, The Points needs financial assistance, as well as more exposure.

Poon mentioned that it would help significantly to get assistance in completing grant and funding proposals, as they lacked the experience, connections and language skills to do so. They also urgently required guidance for seeking funding from governments, NGOs and private foundations, Poon said.

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Other diaspora media

Difficulties in staffing, funding, and coverage

The researchers also spoke to journalists at other new Hong Kong diaspora outlets, who wished to remain anonymous.

One interviewee, “H” has over 15 years of experience as a producer at the public broadcaster in Hong Kong. After moving to London, she worked as a junior florist and also a part-time journalist for a UK-based diaspora media.

As most staff members were not in London, “H” filled in when it was necessary to report in London, such as during Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral. She could only do so when she was free from her day job and did not intend to return to journalism long-term, due to the diaspora media’s funding difficulties.

Another experienced journalist “R” works for another UK-based diaspora media and agrees that with scarce resources and low pay, it is quite unlikely for Hong Kong journalists to wish to continue working in diaspora media.

Another issue is that Hong Kong journalists are now scattered in many different places across the globe, unlike in Hong Kong when they worked in big teams. This meant it was difficult to reproduce the synergy they had when they were in Hong Kong.

“H” also said when covering sensitive political topics related to Hong Kong in the UK, it was difficult to find interviewees, since they may wish to return to Hong Kong at some point and were afraid to speak on the record. As a result, they were unable to produce reports concerning such topics.

8. CONCLUSION

Despite the formidable obstacles facing media employees previously working in Hong Kong who have now relocated overseas, the research found a strong determination to keep the spirit and practise of a free media alive.

Given the dangers of independent journalism within Hong Kong, many of the journalists who responded to this survey recognise the responsibility to work for the restoration of a free media in their new, and safer homes abroad.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

Governments and agencies:

- As journalists and media workers continue to depart Hong Kong to countries where they can report on and analyse Hong Kong affairs without fear of reprisal, governments should keep visa schemes open to these human rights defenders who can no longer safely continue independent journalism inside Hong Kong.
- Countries with existing schemes to take Hongkongers should consider the specific mental health needs of journalists and media workers impacted by burnout and trauma from state intimidation, surveillance and threats.
- Many Hong Kong journalists and media workers need language training to continue work in the media abroad. Governments and agencies should work with public and private media and other civil society organisations to support language courses, meet-ups and workshops specifically for Hong Kong media professionals to support their career transition and the continuation of their work.

Funders and donors:

- The exodus of journalists and collapse of news outlets in Hong Kong will make it harder for the global community and Hong Kong's own citizens to gain an accurate picture of political, economic, legal and social developments in the territory. New media platforms and outlets reporting on China and Hong Kong must be further supported through more ambitious and larger grant and innovation programs internationally.
- Ensuring Hong Kong journalists are able to continue to report from overseas helps diversify media operations in their host countries, but also adds a critical perspective at a time when Chinese media influence is expanding. International media aid programs should review their funding scope and develop much-needed media support in this area.
- Activity support will help strengthen and fortify emerging, new and established diaspora media to provide Chinese speakers around the world with online access to independent news and analysis. Funders and media development bodies can play a vital role in developing professional programs and partnerships to

create space for engagement and support to new startup news outlets to build sustainability.

- Media funders should consider running training or information programs for journalists or new media outlets seeking to apply for projects to develop independent reporting for Chinese language audiences.

Unions and journalist representative bodies:

- Despite the ongoing influence of China over Chinese diaspora media, new Hong Kong and Chinese language media outlets are emerging in Taiwan, UK, Canada, Australia, and the US and beyond. These present an important alternate and independent narrative of China's story. New diaspora need further industry connections, exposure and support to strengthen their networks and solidarity.
- The IFJ and its affiliates through global, regional and national programs can help promote the work of new independent Chinese-language diaspora media and independent journalists to increase their exposure in the international media ecosystem.
- As a representative voice of journalists, unions and journalist representative bodies can play an important role in lobbying governments and public broadcasters on behalf of this cohort of media workers as they seek to continue their careers in diaspora. These bodies would also benefit from expanding and diversifying the membership of their organisations to more strongly represent Hong Kong's media diaspora.
- Unions should pursue strategies to connect with Hong Kong journalists to allow them to meet local media and union representatives to find opportunities for cooperation, training and membership and support new diaspora media to find suitable talent to fill staff shortages.
- Industry transition training would serve as a double benefit to allow unions to shed light for Hong Kong journalists on the political, social and economic environment in their new home countries, while also enhancing their professional skills and helping their integration. •



APPENDIX I

Diaspora media

HongKonger Station – 香港台

Founded in 2021 in **Canada** by singer Joseph Tay and PR executive Fiona Wong to provide general news and information for the Hong Kong diaspora community in North America.

<https://www.hongkongerstation.com/>

Commons – 同文

Founded in October 2021 in **Taiwan** to provide general news related to Hong Kong and the wider diaspora community.

<https://commonshk.com/>

The Chaser – 追新聞

Founded in February 2022 by a group of UK-based Hong Kong journalists, the majority of whom worked for Next Media. They cover general news in the **UK** and **Hong Kong**.

<https://thechasernews.co.uk/>

Green Bean – 綠豆

Founded in mid-2022 by a group of former public broadcaster RTHK journalists to provide weekly video updates on current affairs in Hong Kong and the UK as well as the diaspora community. It also has columns written by journalists, commentators and cartoons.

<https://greenbean.media/>

Mekong Review

The publication, founded in 2015, is a quarterly literary magazine, publishes reviews, essays, interviews, fiction and poetry on and from Asia. In late 2022, Kevin Yam, a Hong Kong lawyer who moved to **Australia**, took over as Editor-at-Large. The publication will provide more coverage about Hong Kong and Greater China within the Asia-Pacific context.

<https://mekongreview.com/>

The Points – 稜角

Founded in January 2023 by a group of Hong Kong journalists based around the globe to provide general news coverage of Hong Kong and the diaspora community.

<https://points-media.com/>

Paiseh To Bother You

A new programme in Cantonese started in March 2022 in **Taiwan** under the public broadcast Radio Taiwan International about life in Taiwan, hosted by former Hong Kong public broadcaster RTHK host Tsang Chi-ho.

<https://www.facebook.com/Paisehtobotheryou/>

Photon Media

An upcoming news media based in **Taiwan** covering Hong Kong news and the diaspora community.

<https://www.facebook.com/photonmediahk>

APPENDIX II

YouTube commentary channels

YouTube channels run by overseas Hongkongers have become a significant source for Hong Kong and overseas Hongkongers to obtain information. Examples include:

Stephen Shiu	Based in Taiwan, he started memehongkong – an online media outlet– which has now been become a very popular talk show based around the host. https://www.youtube.com/c/memehongkong
Lau Sai-leung	Lau is a veteran commentator and founder of House News (predecessor of Stand News), also a former editor at Next Magazine (sister publication of Apple Daily) and former adviser to Hong Kong chief executive Donald Tsang. He is based in Canada. https://www.youtube.com/c/%E5%9F%8E%E5%AF%A8Singja
Yau Ching-yuen	852 Post was an online media outlet founded by the veteran journalist which ceased operations in May 2021. https://www.youtube.com/c/Post852
Simon Shen	Shen is a scholar based in Taiwan. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXf8jtSP9kp6g4ROCFgvbQ
Sam Ng	Co-host of RTHK’s satirical show Headliner, now based in the United Kingdom. https://www.youtube.com/c/NgSam
Tsang Chi-ho	Co-host of RTHK’s satirical show Headliner, now based in Taiwan. https://www.youtube.com/c/%E5%BF%97%E8%B1%AALiveShow
Chris Wong	A former anchor at the TVB news channel before moving to the United Kingdom. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyCZOqec223YCgjuU83LubA
Gavin Chiu	Chiu is a historian and scholar who now lives in the United Kingdom. https://www.youtube.com/@gctalk
Hong Kong Peanuts	Run by a group of pro-democracy commentators. https://www.youtube.com/c/%E9%A6%99%E6%B8%AF%E8%8A%B1%E7%94%9Fhkpeanutcom
Hong Kong Uncensored	Run by a group of pro-democracy commentators. https://www.youtube.com/c/HongKongUncensored%E9%A6%99%E6%B8%AF%E5%86%87%E6%A0%BC%E4%BB%94
Whirling Clouds Valley	Chip Tsao and Alex Bao founded the current affairs talk show Whirling Clouds Valley in March 2022. They were co-hosts of the popular Commercial Radio late-night talk show Summit, now both based in the UK. Tsao still appears irregularly on Summit. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCVFgDdTFiGxQ695BxMBMUg



APPENDIX III

Survey questions

1. When did you move overseas?
2. Where are you located?
3. How many years have you been involved in media work?
4. What kind of work you have undertaken before leaving Hong Kong?
5. Are you confident about working in a non-Chinese speaking environment?
6. What is your current job?
7. Are you currently working in the media sector?
8. (If answered yes in Q7) If you are in the media sector, are you working for a platform/organisation established by Hongkongers?
9. (If answered no in Q7) If not already employed in the media sector, are you seeking employment in this sector?
10. Are you planning to return to Hong Kong in the near future?
11. Do you regret your decision to move overseas?



CFIP
IFJ
EAF
JIF

JOURNALISTS IN EXILE

A SURVEY OF MEDIA WORKERS
IN THE HONG KONG DIASPORA

