

Savanta ComRes Poll shows emphatic British public backing for BNO right of abode

New Savanta ComRes polling data commissioned by advocacy groups Hong Kong Watch and Friends of Hong Kong shows public backing for right of abode for British National (Overseas) passport holders in Hong Kong.

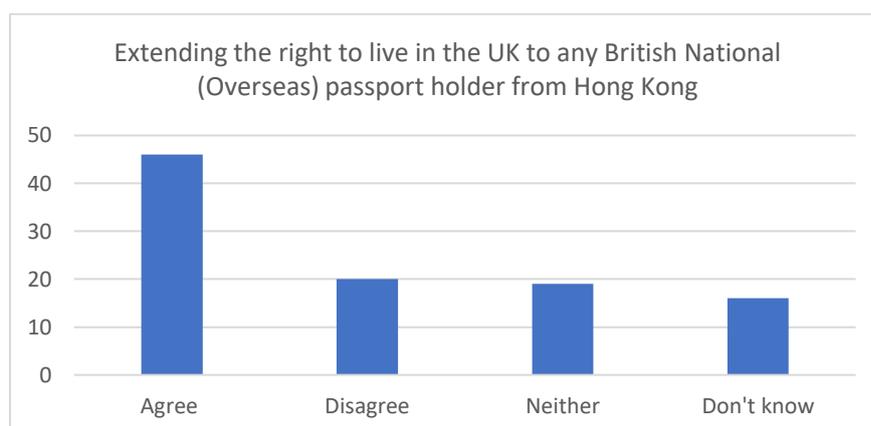
The data, drawing on an online survey of 2041 people demographically representative of the UK, shows that:

1. UK adults are more than twice as likely to support granting right of abode to British National (Overseas) Passport holders as they are to oppose it.
2. UK adults are almost three times as likely to back BNOs having easier access to live and work in the UK than EU citizens than they were to oppose the proposal.
3. More than half of the British public thought that it should be easier for students from Hong Kong to remain in the UK after their studies. Only 15% opposed the idea.
4. Around half of UK voters support “offering political asylum to those from Hong Kong who request it”. Less than 1 in 5 voters opposed the idea.
5. Nearly two-thirds of UK voters said they are “concerned about China eroding the human rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people”.

British Nationals (Overseas) passport holders

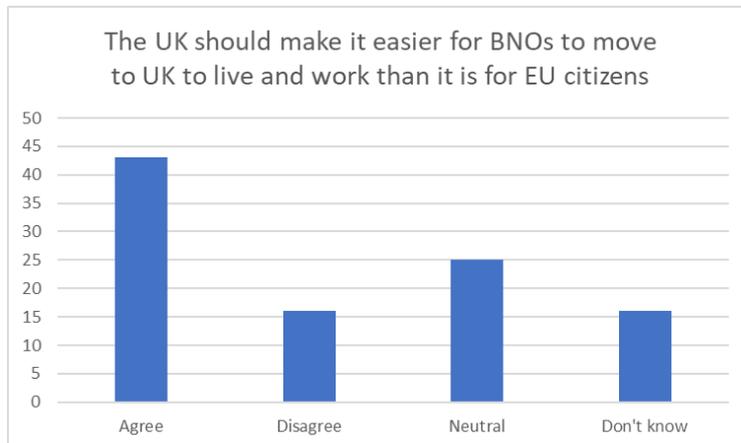
The poll shows significant support for the extension of right of abode to British Nationals (Overseas) passport holders. The number of people who agreed that the British government should extend right of abode to British National Overseas (BNO) passport holders was more than double the number of those who oppose.

UK voters were asked their view on whether it the government should extend the right to live in the UK to any British National (Overseas) passport holder from Hong Kong.



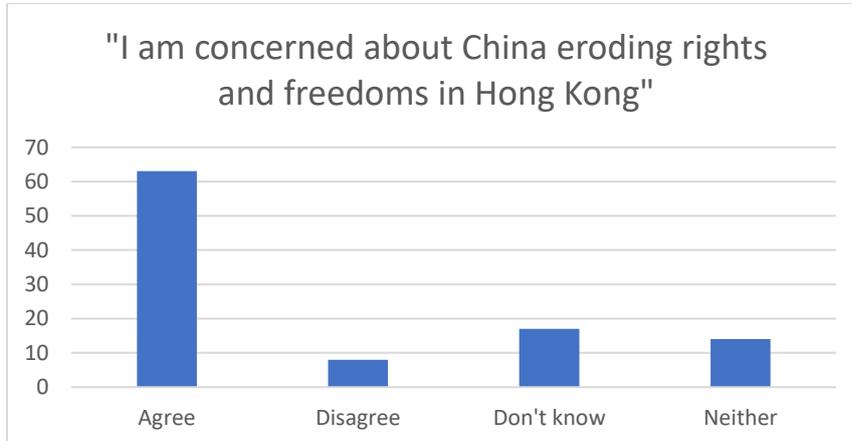
Half of Brits aged 55+ (49%) support extending the right to live in the UK to any BNO passport holder from Hong Kong, in comparison to just two in five Brits aged 18-34 (42%).

In a finding with relevance to post-Brexit Britain, the data shows that three times the number of Britons support making it easier for BNO passport holders “to move to the UK to live and work than it is for EU citizens.” Leave and Remain voters were evenly split. 44% of Leave voters and 44% of Remain voters supported the statement, showing that even those who oppose freedom of movement are supportive of extending the rights of BNO passport holders.



Public concern about the erosion of human rights

The majority of the UK public expressed concerns about the erosions of rights and freedoms in Hong Kong. 63% said that they were concerned, 8% said that they disagreed with the statement, 15% said they did not have an answer, and 14 per cent were neutral.



Students visas and political asylum

More than half of the British public (51%) thought that it should be easier for students from Hong Kong to remain in the UK after their studies. Only 15% opposed the idea, while 19 percent were neutral and 14% stated they did not have a view.

Nearly half of the British public (48%) supported “offering political asylum to those from Hong Kong who request it”. Only 17% opposed the idea. while 18 per cent were neutral and 17% stated they did not have a view.

Summary tables

Q1. In 1984, the UK Government signed an agreement with China which guarantees freedom in Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty from the UK to China. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents (n=2,041)

	The UK has a moral duty of care towards the people of Hong Kong	I am concerned about China eroding the human rights and freedoms of people in Hong Kong	I am concerned about China trying to undermine Hong Kong's self-rule	The UK should take diplomatic action to defend Hong Kong's self-rule	After the General Election, Members of Parliament should speak up about Hong Kong
NET: Agree	48%	63%	56%	42%	49%
NET: Disagree	17%	8%	10%	16%	12%
Don't know	17%	15%	17%	22%	21%

Q2. A few hundred thousand of Hong Kong's citizens hold British National (Overseas) passports, issued to them before the handover of Hong Kong. These British passports do not carry the automatic right to live or work in the UK, even though they do give the right to limited diplomatic assistance. To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following actions for the UK government to take?

Base: All respondents (n=2,041)

	Making it easier for British Nationals (Overseas) to move to the UK to live and work than it is for EU citizens	Offering political asylum to those from Hong Kong who request it	Extending the right to live in the UK to any British National (Overseas) passport holder from Hong Kong	Making it easier for students from Hong Kong in the UK to remain in the UK after their studies
NET: Support	43%	48%	46%	51%
NET: Oppose	16%	17%	20%	15%
Don't know	16%	17%	16%	14%