

**Subject: Blocking the ratification of the Hong Kong SAR's membership of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership**

To:

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We, the undersigned, are writing to urge your government to block the ratification of Hong Kong's membership of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Over the last three years, the erratic and unpredictable behaviour of the Hong Kong Government which includes the mass arrest and jailing of lawmakers, trade unionists, activists, and journalists, the overhauling of democratic elections, and the undermining of judicial independence, point to why Hong Kong is not a credible candidate for the trade pact.

The imposition of the draconian National Security Law in Hong Kong has seen the authorities target individuals overseas with arrest warrants and bounties, including Australian citizens. The authorities have also used the law to prosecute students studying in Japan.

Whatever limited economic benefits Hong Kong's membership might bring RCEP, should be weighed against the boost ratifying its membership would give to an ambiguous and far-reaching security law that claims extraterritoriality and is being retrospectively applied and the risk it poses to your own citizens and businesses.

Within the Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong is increasingly being used by the People's Republic of China as a smuggling hub to bypass American restrictions on semi-conductors and emerging technologies. Granting Hong Kong Membership of RCEP would deepen this trend and increase smuggling within the region as Hong Kong's special customs status is misused.

The diminished status of Hong Kong's autonomy as a result of this security law means that ratification of its membership would see the People's Republic of China effectively having two seats within RCEP, doing little to deflect criticism that the trade bloc will become dominated by China.

In the past, RCEP members have demonstrated a willingness to weigh the human rights record of applicants when considering ratification of their membership. In February 2022, members rightly blocked Myanmar's membership on human rights grounds following the military coup.

We urge your government to do the same when it comes to the Government of Hong Kong, which has shown a wanton disregard for human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for international law, therefore making it an unreliable partner in the trade pact.

Yours Sincerely,

Hong Kong Watch  
29 Principles  
Action Free Hong Kong Montreal  
AfricaHongKongFrance  
Australia Capital Hong Kong Association  
Australia Hong Kong Link  
Birmingham HongKongers  
Bonham Tree Aid UK  
Britons in Hong Kong  
Canadian Asian Community Think Tank  
Canadian Friends of Hong Kong  
Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation  
D4HK  
Fight for Freedom. Stand with Hong Kong.  
Finnish Hongkongers  
Freiheit für Hong Kong e.V.  
Friends of Hong Kong Edmonton  
Hackney Chinese Community Services (HCCS)  
Halifax-Hong Kong Link  
HKers United  
Hong Kong Aid  
Hong Kong Democracy Council  
Hong Kong Outlanders in Taiwan  
Hong Kongers in Britain (HKB)  
Hongkonger in Deutschland e.V.  
Hongkongers in Britain  
Hongkongers in Leeds  
Japan Hong Kong Democracy Alliance  
Lady Liberty Hong Kong  
Le Comité pour la Liberté à Hong-Kong  
McMaster Stands With Hong Kong  
Mingle Bristol CIC  
Netherlands for Hong Kong  
Newcastle Stands With Hong Kong  
NGO DEI  
North East Hongkongers Club  
Re-Water  
Salford Hongkongers CIC  
Scottish Hongkongers  
Self-exile Former DCs Hong Kong (SEFDCHK)

Southampton Hongkongers  
Stand with HK @ JPN  
Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)  
Sutton Culture and Arts Society  
Taiwan Hong Kong Association  
The Hong Kong Scots  
The Hong Kong Scots CIC  
Torontonians HongKongers Action Group  
University of Malaya Association of New Youth (UMANY)  
Victoria Hongkongers Association  
Winnipeg Hong Kong Concern