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Attn: News Desks  
For immediate Release

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## REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE

The Refugee Union was founded in 2014 with the aim of safeguarding refugee rights that are generally ignored and often grossly violated in Hong Kong, despite the Government explicit commitment to international treaties and domestic law.

The refugee community is arguably the most impoverished, marginalized and humiliated social group in a city that claims to be fair, welcoming and respectful of human rights. The reality is that refugees have no choice but to live in appalling conditions from which they cannot escape because they are prohibited from working under threat of imprisonment for 18 months upon arrest and first time conviction.

The hardship of the refugee community has been further aggravated by the Coronavirus Pandemic which dried up charitable assistance, church donations and citizen support. To express our concerns, a petition was submitted to the Social Welfare Department on 27 February ([link](#)), requesting the Government to increase the current assistance which has not been improved since January 2014 and leaves refugees in a state of destitution.

On 19 March, the Social Welfare Department dodged its responsibility by suggesting a roundabout solution that regrettably only kicked the ball down the road, "*service users with extra needs may also provide justifications and documentary proof to ISS-HK for its consideration on a case-by-case basis.*" ([link](#))

Their reply compelled our refugee members to lodge dozens of personal complaint letters on [27 March](#), [31 March](#), [2 April](#), as well as **TODAY AT 12:00**, stating that "*(we) have repeatedly reported to (our) ISS-HK caseworker that (our) rent, food, utility and transportation assistances are greatly insufficient and regrettably fail to meet (our) most basic daily needs. (Our) caseworker advised (us) to report this problem directly to your Department as they are unable to provide more help without your instructions.*"

In this global recession, the refugee community faces unprecedented challenges that it cannot resolve without government support. We respectfully ask Hong Kong Government to include us in its rescue packages as we cannot weather this storm alone and have nobody else to reply upon. Consequently we ask the Government to urgently increase our levels of assistance which haven't been adjusted with inflection for over six years.

此致：各新聞機構

如有任何查詢或採訪邀請，請聯絡：

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### 要求增加援助

難民聯會成立於 2014 年，致力捍衛難民權益。儘管香港政府對外宣稱履行國際條約及本地法律，但難民權利往往被忽視，甚至遭到嚴重侵犯。

香港的難民社群可謂是這個號稱富足、友善和尊重人權的城市中，最飽受貧窮、邊緣化、無尊嚴的社會群體。現實是，難民別無選擇地被迫要居住於惡劣的環境，而由於他們沒有工作權，一旦違法將面對最高 18 個月的監禁，因此他們永遠也脫離不了這個惡夢。

我們的困境更由於新冠肺炎疫症而變得更加惡劣，活動機會、慈善援助、教會捐助與市民支持因疫症而減少。為了表達我們的擔憂，我們在 2 月 27 日向社會福利署提交了一份請願，請求政府增加現有援助，紓緩我們的貧困。[\(link\)](#)

3 月 19 日，社會福利署提出了一個迂迴的解決方案，一再拖延行動，推卸責任，實在令人遺憾。社福署回覆：「有額外需求的服務使用者也可以向香港國際社會服務社（ISS-HK）提供理據和證明文件，以供其基於個案考量。」[\(link\)](#)

他們的回覆迫使我們的成員在 [3 月 27 日](#)、[3 月 31 日](#)、[4 月 2 日](#) 與今天 12:00 提交數十封個人申訴信，其中提到「我們反覆向 ISS-HK 社工反映，房租、食物、公共設施與交通方面獲得的援助遠遠不夠，很遺憾地未能滿足最基本日常所需。沒有 貴部門的指示，社工無法提供更多幫助，因此他們建議我們直接向貴部門報告此問題。」

在這一波全球衰退中，難民社群面臨前所未有的挑戰，而沒有政府援助則無法應對。我們無法獨自渡過這場風暴，沒有其他人可以對此回應，我們要求香港政府將我們納入救助計畫範圍。因此，請政府迅速增加自 2014 年 1 月以來未作調整的援助。

