

Supporting Hongkongers to settle in the UK

Jointly produced by: Hackney Chinese Community Services (HCCS), Hong Kong Assistance and Resettlement Community (HKARC), and Hongkongers in Britain (HKB)

Date: 26 January 2021

Introduction

It is estimated that 5.4 million Hongkongers and their dependents hold the BN(O) status. It is reported that during the first 10 months of 2020, some 216,398 BN(O) passports were issued, roughly 5 per minute. The UK Government estimated that about 600,000 will arrive in the UK to take advantage of the BN(O) Pathway to Citizen scheme.

We do not anticipate that all 600,000+ Hongkongers will immediately come to the UK. How soon Hongkongers may make the move largely depends on how bad the political and economic situation in Hong Kong develops. We estimate the groups that are most likely to migrate to the UK in the next 2-3 years in order of urgency as follows:

- Hong Kong police made 8,981 arrests between June 9, 2019, and May 29, 2020, in connection with the protests. With the imposition of the National Security Law in July 2020, this group and their associates in the protest are most likely to come to the UK to seek safe haven in the immediate future as they are the likely immediate targets for persecution. A large section of the arrests are minors born after the handover, the majority are aged 18-23. The Hong Kong government is targeting young people for arrests under the NSL. In fact, hundreds have already taken the journey to the UK as soon as the National Security Law was imposed in Hong Kong. This group consists of both BN(O)s and HKSAR passport holders. A substantial proportion are in the 18-23 age group who do not have BN(O) status, and some of them are applying for asylum. This group requires immediate support to find safe haven in the UK.
- Professionals would likely be the next group to follow, in particular those in the professions being targeted by the People's Republic of China (PRC) for oppression and persecutions, i.e. journalists, teachers, social workers and community workers, lawyers, and civil servants.
- Families with dependent children, in particular those of professional background, are likely to be the next group taking advantage of the BN(O) Visa scheme. The main motivation of this group is to find a better, freer,

education environment for the children's education and future. This group tends to be relatively affluent, and financially able to support themselves.

- BN(O)s with independent means e.g. retirees.
- 750 minors were arrested for taking part in the 2019-20 protests. It is anticipated that as the situation becomes unbearable, we will see unaccompanied minors asylum seekers arriving in the UK.

Hongkongers in Britain (HKB)

Hongkongers in Britain is a civil society organisation established in July 2020, and is a registered organisation in the UK. Its primary objective is to serve as a community for Hongkongers in the UK, offering a platform for Hongkongers to support and assist each other, enabling them to settle, rebuild their lives and integrate into the UK, and contribute towards UK society. In brief, HKB is:

- A medium between Hongkongers and local communities in the UK
- A forum to allow people to create connection
- A platform to inspire activities socially, culturally and economically
- A British community for Hongkongers

HKB's departments include public affairs, social connections, community development, culture, and life in the UK. HKB is dedicated towards enhancing Hongkongers' engagement across different levels and sectors of UK society. HKB aims to work in the interest of both prospective Hong Kong emigrants to the UK and those who are already in the UK, as well as the British general public, to communicate the spirit of Hong Kong in the UK.

Hong Kong Assistance and Resettlement Community (HKARC)

The Hong Kong ARC is a UK Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registration approval pending from the Charity Commission) founded in October 2020. HKARC's primary objective is to relieve financial hardship and sickness amongst people from Hong Kong who are present in the United Kingdom and who:

- (a) have been granted refugee status or are in the process of claiming refugee status; or
- (b) are claiming or exercising legal rights to live in the United Kingdom because of reasonable fear of infringement of their human rights.

HKARC aims to achieve its objectives with the provision of shelter, legal assistance, mental health support and ongoing general support.

Hackney Chinese Community Services (HCCS)

The Hackney Chinese Community Services is a registered charity. It is a publicly funded community centre providing general advice, health advocacy, and support services for East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) communities to access public services and to participate in community affairs. HCCS was founded in 1988, and has a history in supporting migrants from New Territories, Vietnam, Tiananmen massacre, Hong Kong, Macau, Fujian, Malaysia, Singapore to settle in the UK. Since June 2020, it assisted many enquiries from newly arrived Hongkongers to find their bearing in the UK.

Areas of Focus and Recommendations

In planning the support of Hongkongers arriving in the UK, it is recommended to direct resources to the most urgent and less resourceful sector as a priority.

Britain has a rich history in providing safe haven to people fleeing political turmoil. The Chinese population in the UK was of an insignificant number in the 1950s grew to 154,363 in 1981 census, in two decades it further grew by nearly three folds to 430,000 in 2011.

We can learn from the experience of the different waves of Chinese migrants arriving at the soil of the UK in devising a programme to assist Hongkongers arriving the UK in the next few years, to assist their settlement in a more supported structure. Please see appendix A.

This joint submission advocates a “user focus approach in devising the supporting programme for Hongkongers arriving the UK, i.e. the programme is designed from the perspective of users’ needs, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach, and to structure a support network with both short- and long-term objectives to assist immediate settlement and promote community cohesion.

The current wave of migrations from Hong Kong are predominantly Cantonese speaking ethnic Chinese. All previous waves of Chinese migrants arriving the UK, despite their last country of origin, all identified themselves as ethnic Chinese. However for the current wave of Hong Kong migrants, the persecution from the PRC and Hong Kong Government is their main cause of their self-imposed exile, thus most, or at least a large section, would prefer not to associate with Chinese, and prefer to call themselves “Hongkongers”.

1. Safety and security

All previous groups of Chinese migrants sought to find connection with the established Chinese community, in particular from Chinatown in big cities where they could bond easily, in obtaining information and support to solve problems of everyday lives, and in employment. Despite this, more often than not, the relationship is not equal and the established Chinese exploit the vulnerability of the newcomers. Nevertheless, it is an important connection for the newcomers.

The current wave of Hongkongers however, in general, have been met with a hostile reception from the established Chinese communities. There have been incidents of local Chinese thugs, with triad connections, terrorising Hongkongers in public places and online.

A recent survey by Hongkongers in Britain found that 90% of respondents identified “Campaigns supported by the Chinese/HKSAR government to harm the interest and safety of Hongkongers in the UK” as the cause that make them feel unsafe in the UK.

<https://www.Hongkongers.org.uk/policy-study-coming-for-hope>

Many recently arrived Hongkongers reported incidents of being followed or harassed by PRC thugs. The following links are three separate incidents of UK based pro-China thugs targeting Hongkongers, and terrorising Chinatown and streets of London:

At Denise Ho’s (Hong Kong pro-democracy singer) London concert:

<https://youtu.be/tBRLfhyjgPs> (Egg shells thrown during Pro-PRC thugs attack can be seen at around timestamp 2:30)

In Chinatown attacking a Hong Kong supporter and his family

<https://twitter.com/xinwenxiaojie/status/1198332122827767810?s=19>

London-based activist reported incidents of being followed and threatened

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/simon-cheng-chinese-are-tailing-me-around-london-says-hong-kong-exile-rkvdh60b2>

Recommendations

1a. Enhance the strength of the Met China Desk in detecting and monitoring community tensions arising from the PRC supporters harassing, attacking, or terrorising Hongkongers.

1b. Many of the core figures of the PRC thugs are known to the Met. The Met has communication channels to put the thugs on notice to refrain from such activities.

- 1c. Home Office to issue briefings to all Police force alerting the situation and recommend measures to enhance police protection to Hongkongers from PRC thugs' harassments.*
- 1d. To recognise PRC supporters harassing, attacking, or threatening Hongkongers as hate crime.*
- 1e. Actively prosecute PRC suspects for acts of harassing, attacking, or threatening Hongkongers.*
- 1f. Many of the perpetrators in the harassment activities in the above link gained their settlement in the UK as asylum seekers following Tiananmen massacre. To review their asylum/refugee claim with the view to remove those found to be infiltrators from PRC.*

2. Immigration

There are two main categories of Hongkongers arriving in the UK:

- With the BN(O) status, i.e. people born in Hong Kong prior 01/07/1997, this group has the right to BN(O) Visa Scheme, and
- Without BN(O) status, i.e. Hong Kong citizens born outside Hong Kong or born in Hong Kong after 01/07/1997 fleeing political persecution, this group has to apply for asylum.

The Hong Kong BN(O)s Visa scheme enables Hongkongers with BN(O) status to live, work, study in the UK, subject to No Recourse to Public Fund and other conditions.

The Hongkongers without BN(O) status are subject to immigration control. A large section of the core activists demanding universal suffrage and democracy in Hong Kong during the 2019-20 movement are Hongkongers born after 01/07/1997. They are subject to immigration control.

British immigration system is not designed to be user friendly. Past experience demonstrated that many people who are eligible to remain in the UK under the immigration rule fall foul of the complex immigration application procedure/process.

PRC undocumented workers have been a major source of business to Chinese immigration practitioners for decades, many of these immigration practitioners are glove in hand with the Chinese Embassy, both in business dealings and immigration matters. In fact, the leading figure in TMG Min Quan thuggery behaviour as shown in the links in previous section is a prominent OISC immigration practitioner.

Recommendations

- 2a. Establish a network of reliable independent immigration practitioners of affordable fees to support Hongkongers to get unbiased professional services, without the fear of their details being passed onto the Chinese Embassy/PRC.*
- 2b. Law centres are a good source of independent immigration practitioners, however the capacity of Law Centre immigration advice is stretched to the limits. We therefore recommend funding to establish community immigration advice service specialists to handle BN(O)s Visa applications and Hongkongers asylum application, similar to the services for EU Settlement Scheme .*
- 2c. Establish asylum hostels to house the 18-23-year-old Hongkongers fleeing persecution seeking asylum in the UK.*
- 2d. If there is a large number of asylum seekers who are unaccompanied minors arriving in the UK, we recommend to select designated children homes and schools to devise support to this group of vulnerable children.*
- 2e. Many 18-23-year-old asylum seekers had their education abruptly disrupted/terminated. Although the immigration rules do not prevent asylum seekers from studying whilst awaiting a decision, a condition prohibiting study could be imposed on an asylum seeker who has appeal rights exhausted. We recommend that Home Office permits Hongkonger asylum seekers to complete their course in education.*
- 2f. To grant permission to work for asylum seekers who are likely to be granted refugee status the right to work after the first interview.*

3. University Education

The guiding principle of overseas student fees is that students who have not been an “ordinary resident” in the UK for at least 3 years (prior to starting university studies) are liable to be charged Overseas student fees. The interpretation and application in charging overseas students fees could vary from one university to another.

As mentioned in Recommendation 2c above, many 18–23-year-old Hongkongers had their education abruptly disrupted/terminated due to the 2019 turmoil and found themselves having to seek safe haven in the UK.

Recommendations

- 3a. To recognise Hongkongers under BN(O) Visa Scheme are ordinary residents for the purpose of university fees.*
- 3b. To grant home student status to Hongkongers asylum seekers.*
- 3c. To allow students mentioned above to access student finance loans.*

3d. To increase the number of scholarships available for students mentioned above.

3e. In addition to UK gov's youth mobility scheme for 18–23-year-old HKSAR passport holders, we call the government to allow this group to access UK higher education (at discounted rates).

4. Schools

School academic year starts in September, and the intake of new pupils is structured to coincide with the beginning of the school year. In a normal admissions cycle, parents apply to the local authority in which they live for places at their preferred schools. Parents are able to express a preference for at least three schools. The application can include schools outside the local authority where the child lives: a parent can apply for a place for their child at any state-funded school in any area. This process usually takes place to enable school children to join school at the beginning of the academic year. For children joining school in mid-year, application is made to the local authority for allocation of school place, although parents can express preference, but allocation depends on availability of places.

Hongkongers with school-aged children are unlikely to be able to fit into the normal admission timetable. Most will have to apply to join school in mid-year after arriving in the UK.

Recommendations

4a. To devise procedures for Hongkongers to apply for a school place for children from abroad, and make this information accessible online.

4b. To issue guidance to local authorities to put procedures in place for mid-year admissions of Hongkongers.

4c. Each borough/council should monitor the influx of Hong Kong children to schools, and allocate more resources accordingly for schools to strengthen its services providing for English as a Second Language, in addition to cultural/PSHE support in schools for integration.

4d. Please refer to 2d.

5. Housing

BN(O)s are subjected to No Recourse to Public Funds. Finding accommodation is one of the most urgent issues for new arrivals, apart from a small proportion who may have friends to provide temporary accommodation upon arriving in the UK. Even for those who have the resources to buy their own property, it will take months to look for suitable property and conveyance to complete. Nearly all Hongkongers new arrivals will be renting from the private sector.

Under section 22 of the Immigration Act 2014, a landlord should not authorise an adult to occupy property as their only or main home under a residential tenancy agreement, unless the adult is a British citizen, a European Economic Area (EEA) or Swiss national or has the “right to rent” in the UK.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936944/2020.11.19_Right_to_rent_code_of_practice.pdf

Hong Kong BN(O)s is not listed in the Home Office Code of Practice on right to rent as having the “right to rent”. Currently, Hong Kong BN(O) holders have a right to rent under a “time-limited statutory excuse” (under List B documents). Before the BN(O) Visa scheme starts, current BN(O) holders are allowed to rent for the period allowed in their visas, for example, 6 months for a tourist free visa. However, there remains a question, after a BNO has successfully applied for the BNO Visa, if their right to rent will be automatically extended to a non “time-limited” one.

As for the present, even though BN(O) holders have a “time-limited” right to rent residential properties in the UK under a “time-limited” arrangement, they face practical barriers in the process.

- They lack the practical knowledge of searching properties in the UK, the renting process and compliance requirements.
- The lack of letting history and credit history in the UK also poses practical barriers to Hongkongers seeking long term solutions to their accommodation.
- Landlords usually ask for 6 to 12 months of pre-paid rentals from prospective tenants who do not have employment and credit history in the UK.

Recommendations

5a. To elaborate on the current guidance so as to include current BN(O) passports as one example of having the “right to rent” under the “time-limited statutory excuse” in List B documents.

5b. To clarify in the guidance the right to rent of BN(O) holders who successfully applied for BN(O) Visa after 31 January 2021. Under the current policy intention, the

right to rent of BN(O) Visa holders should last at least 5+1 years. It is important for the information to be made available to landlords and property agents.

5c. To establish hostels as temporary accommodation for newly arrived Hongkongers on license, self-finance by reasonable charge, to enable Hongkongers to have a space/location to settle down and organise things like bank accounts and to look for private rented accommodation.

5d. To encourage Housing Associations to design schemes that can be let/sold to Hongkongers as their principal home in the UK.

5e. To consider providing subsidised accommodation support (financial means tested) for young Hongkong arrivals with fewer resources and/or are particularly vulnerable.

5f. To provide on official websites information about the legal process and requirements about finding, renting and buying residential properties in the UK, and make the information available in Chinese at information hubs (please refer to 8a).

5g. Please refer to 2d.

6. Employment

It is anticipated that students and professional people are most likely to opt to exercise their rights under the BN(O) Visa Scheme. There are hundreds, if not thousands, already entered the UK with “LOTR”, and are looking for work.

This is an opportunity that, with the right support, can influence the Chinese community outlook from an inward-looking community concentrated in catering to one that actively engages in British employment market. With the UK leaving the EU, some industries are experiencing a labour shortage, e.g. healthcare, social care, construction, male primary school teacher, agricultural etc. A recent survey in Hong Kong found that 10% of nurses are planning to take advantage of the BN(O) Visa scheme.

The current Apprenticeship Schemes are for young people who are 26 or younger. It would be useful for Hongkongers to be able to access the apprentice scheme to familiarise and adopt their skill sets to the British employment market.

Recommendations

6a. Job Centres to organise workshops on NI, employment rights, CV writing, pension rights for Hongkongers.

6b. Job Centre Employment Advisors to teach and assist Hongkongers to search for work.

6c. Extend apprenticeship schemes for BN(O)(s) to facilitate transition to the UK employment market.

6d. Funding for organisations/job centres to provide skills training for Hongkongers to convert their qualifications and skills to become applicable to UK conditions, as well as job-matching services and advice.

6e. Ensure public and private employers become familiar with BN(O) Visa Scheme, to ensure equal/non-discriminatory job opportunities and access for BN(O) Visa holders.

6f. Support/advice on start-ups and self-employed.

6g. Please refer to 2f.

7. Access to Mental Health support

Since several hundred thousand Hongkongers are projected to come in the next few years, they may constitute one of the largest ethnic groups along with Black and Asian British. However their needs including mental health are not homogenous.

We propose specific mental health provision for Hongkongers, separate from the BAME community services:

- Firstly the volume of newcomers is likely to reduce the capacity, spaces and supports to existing BAME services.
- As recent migrants with experience of persecution, and in the context of COVID they have specific stressors that are different from existing BAME communities, as outlined elsewhere in this briefing.

Large-scale mental health surveys indicate that levels of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress are at historical highs in the Hong Kong population[1] due to the 2019 protests and COVID-19 pandemic. An online survey by a community research group found that levels of suspected post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in pro-democracy supporters are at 35%[2], comparable to areas in conflict. Hongkongers who migrate to and seek asylum in the UK are amongst the most impacted by the government crackdown and police brutality—nearly all Hongkongers who have sought advice from HCCS have reported significant anxiety and mood disturbances, and are likely to be living with symptoms of PTSD. UK-based East and Southeast Asian therapists have formed grassroots networks to provide pro bono psychological support to these Hongkongers who have fled to the UK, but there is an urgent need to expand capacity and allocate resources to help the increasing numbers of people arriving who are suffering from the effects of psychological trauma.

[1] Reuters, “‘Unprecedented’ mental health issues seen in Hong Kong amid virus fears” <https://tinyurl.com/y6dnq9qt>

[2] <https://telegra.ph/22nd-Citizens-Press-Conference-Press-Release-11-01>

Therefore we believe that separate funding should be allocated by the government and local authorities for HK-specific mental health initiatives

Recommendations

7a. Funding for community mental health initiatives (such as Mind, Wellbeing Network) that enable Cantonese-speaking therapists to provide time-limited and trauma-informed individual and group therapies.

7b. Address barriers such as discrimination, language issues for Hongkongers in accessing NHS/GP services & improve access to NHS mental health services, particularly specialist treatment for trauma, for Hongkongers by increasing funding for Cantonese interpreters, Cantonese-speaking MH professionals (e.g. caseworkers and therapists).

7c. To fund projects supporting Hongkongers and the comprehensive translation of information and self-guided resources accessing mental health services.

8. Information hubs

All migrants arriving in a new country will face the immediate problems of food, accommodation, followed by schooling for children, jobs, then healthcare and other practical problems of everyday life.

Most Hongkongers will be entering Britain through London or Manchester.

Recommendations

8a. Establish information hubs in London and Manchester to assist:

Information and network with local authorities to privately rent or HA rented accommodation, house price, schools and local costs of living.

Social integration: service to assist in applying for NI, register with GP, school, awareness raising on what is permitted or not permitted under the NRPF, English classes, employment training, rights and responsibilities as citizens, community awareness and community cohesion. Also related to Section 1 above, information to

newcomers on legislatures on and protection from racial and other discrimination in UK

9. Interpretation and translation

Although most Hongkongers are able to communicate in basic/simple English, a significant proportion are non-English speakers, this may become a barrier to accessing information or services.

Recommendations

9a. Setup a specialist team to provide Cantonese interpretation and translation services, in person, by telephone, or online.

9b. Hongkongers in need of translation service for interviews or various appointments can pre-book from the service.

Contact information

Hackney Chinese Community Services (HCCS):

Website: <https://www.hackneychinese.org.uk/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HackneyChineseCommunityServices>

Email: info@hackneychinese.org.uk

Hong Kong Assistance and Resettlement Community (HKARC):

Website: hongkongarc.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hongkongarc>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hongkongarc>

Email: contact@hongkongarc.org

Hongkongers in Britain (HKB):

Website: <http://www.hongkongers.org.uk>

HKB Policy Study on Hong Kong BN(O) holders coming to the UK “Coming for Hope” (Dec 2020): <https://www.hongkongers.org.uk/policy-study-coming-for-hope>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HongKongersUK>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HongkongersUK>

Email: hongkongersinbritain@protonmail.com

Appendix A

Waves of mass Chinese migration to the UK

We can learn from the experience of the different waves of Chinese migrants arriving at the soil of the UK in devising a programme to assist Hongkongers arriving in the UK in the next few years, to assist their settlement in a more supported structure. Please see

This paper gives observations on the waves of mass Chinese migrants that came to the UK and their journey to become settled in the UK since WWII. The different factors causing the waves of the migration and the Government's policies at each wave posed different needs challenges for each group of arrivals.

We hope this paper can help to learn from the previous waves of Chinese migration to the UK in devising a more constructive and welcome environment in assisting the anticipated 600,000+ Hongkongers arriving on the UK soil in the next few years.

1960s to 1973

There are three main groups of ethnic Chinese migrating to the UK, they are from Hong Kong New Territories CUKC, Malaysian, and Singaporean.

From 1945 to 1951, the population in Hong Kong grew from 600,000 to 2.1 million as residents in China fled the Communist Party regime. The Hong Kong government bought cheap food from SE Asian countries to feed the growing city population. As a result, peasants and farmers found their produce cannot compete with the imported food, many lost their livelihood and found they lacked the skills for the ever-expanding city. Poverty pushed many of them to make a living to come to the UK.

Malaysia became independent from Britain in 1957. The country however suffered from a sharp division of wealth between the Chinese who dominated most urban areas and were perceived to be in control of a large portion of the country's economy, and the Malays, who were generally poorer and more rural. The tension boiled over to the 1969 Malaysia anti-Chinese riot. Many ethnic Chinese fled Malaysia to the UK seeking safe haven.

Against a background of communal conflicts in Singapore prior to its independence in 1965, and the continuous internal surveillance for suspected communist dissidents well into the 70's, many Chinese fled Singapore to the UK seeking safe haven.

Before 1973, people from Hong Kong New Territories were Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies (CUKC). With Malaysia and Singapore being ex-British colonies, many of their citizens were also CUKC. Before 1973, all CUKC could come to work or live in the UK.

Most of them were male members of the household coming to the UK, leaving their wife and children behind. They took the view to earn a living abroad temporarily to support their family back home and that they will return home when their children are grown up. They arrived in the UK when the main Chinese business - namely the laundry business, is being replaced by household washing machines. By the late 60's this group of New Territories migrants found a new industry, Chinese catering/restaurants, in which supports their livelihood in the UK and also able to send monies back home to their families. They were mainly small take away shops (in partnerships_ providing employment to partners and accommodation above the shops.

Of those from Malaysia and Singapore, a fair proportion were English speakers and/or intellectuals, they entered into the mainstream employment area, such as working for the National Health Service.

There were no publicly funded Chinese community centres to support these groups of migrants. There were a number of self-help organisations or clansman clubs offering mutual support when individuals were experiencing hardship, assisting in job searches, or facilitating information exchanges.

The 1978 The Chinese in the UK Conference Report published that in accordance with the 1971 census, the population of people who were born in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and PRC are 27410, 14095, 25355, and 12635 respectively, (total 89495). Please note that in the 1971 census did not have ethnic category; and not all those born in the above counties are ethnic Chinese.

1973 to early 1980s

With the decolonisation process since WWII, and many CUKCs sought to come to the UK fleeing political turmoil from former British colonies. The anti-immigrant sentiment grew, with politicians such as Enoch Power encouraging xenophobic views against immigrants. The Government enacted the Immigration Act 1971 commence on 01 January 1973.

The Act created two types of CUKC, CUKC with the Right of Abode and CUKC without the Right of Abode. Those with the Right of Abode will continue to enjoy the same rights to live work or study in the UK with not immigration control, CUKCs who has an ancestor born in the UK and CUKCs already in the UK on 01/01/1973 are CUKC with RoA. Those without the Right of Abode are subject to immigration control, primarily CUKCs born in British colonies or ex-colonies are without RoA.

However, the 1971 Act was designed to restrict CUKC from colonies and ex-colonies from entering the UK posed a question to CUKCs in the UK who have families aboard: Do they bring their family to the UK to reunion before their children reach age 18? If they don't when their children reach the age of 18, they are non-RoA and

will not be able to come to the UK on their own right. Most of them chose to bring their family to the UK as family reunion.

The 1970s to mid-1980s have an influx of CUKC families from Hong Kong New Territories and other ex-colonies to the UK. Many New Territories CUKC although been in the UK for more than a decade, but being stuck in Chinese catering working long unsocial hours, remained illiterate in English. They lacked the knowledge about the British society to access services for their family. More often than not the newly arrived, non-English speaking mother figure had to handle all the problems in running a home, whilst the father figure working in Chinese catering where a 6-day week/ 11 to 12 hours work was a norm. The mother figures looking after the children, resolving problems associated with schooling, health care, housing, low incomes etc navigating the complex system unsupported.

We witnessed a growth in the family Chinese catering in the 1970s and 80s, the influx of family members had a by-product of additional labour force, more often than not were on low or no wages, from family members, with profits all entering the pocket of the father. This growth was fuelled by self-exploitation, and super exploitation, of family members. Many families experienced relationship break down: children resentful being forced to work in family business after school, mother had to look after family and the business, domestic violence was a norm and a taboo.

Weekend Chinese school is one of the first focal points for Chinese families social networking and share life experience in the UK. Many Chinese schools were the source for sharing information about access to services.

Designated Community centres for Chinese funded by public monies started to emerge providing advice and service for Chinese people accessing public services. The Chinese Workers Group started its service in 1976 in the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre, the London Chinatown Chinese Community Centre was established in 1979, Chinese Information & Advice Centre was formed in 1980. The Scarman report concluded that it was essential that "people are encouraged to secure a stake in, feel a pride in, and have a sense of responsibility for their own area", and called for a policy of "direct coordinated attack on racial disadvantage". The Chinese community benefited from the Scarman recommendations and many publicly funded Chinese community centres are established in the 1980s under the multi-cultural policy that followed.

With the influx of families demanded for service, the emergence of "Chinatown" where a cluster of Chinese restaurants, groceries and service businesses such as hair dresser, bookshop, entertainment, travel agent etc started in this period.

Alongside the emergence of Chinatowns, organised crime in the form of triad activities also becomes a force amongst the Chinese communities. In London, this led to a designated unit in Met to handle Chinese triad associated crimes, in the

1980's it became the Chinatown Unit. The Unit was disbanded in 2009 as a victim of the 2008 financial crisis.

The University of Warwick Centre For Research in Ethnic Relation found that "There were around 2 thousand Chinese arrivals per annum during the 1960s, rising to over 4 thousand per annum in the late 1970s and reaching a peak of 8 thousand in 1980. The number of arrivals thereafter declined to around 4 thousand per annum during the 1980s. "

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/crer/research/publications/nemda/nemda1991sp10.pdf>

The figures suggested that the Immigration Act 1971 designed to reduce the number of CUKCs entering the UK produced the opposite effect in incentivised Chinese CUKCs already in the UK to bring their dependents in the UK, doubling the number of Chinese migrants in the previous decade.

The Government was unprepared for the large influx of migrant families from the Chinese communities and other commonwealth communities causing significant strain to all local services in school, housing, social services causing resentment amongst local worker people who also relying on these services, and gave fertile soil to the far-right political organisations such as the National Front to recruit and grow, terrorising the migrant communities.

By the end of 1970's PRC signalled its intention to reclaim Hong Kong in 1997. The Government decided to formally separate CUKCs into different categories to redefine its relations with its own citizens (British Citizenship), citizens of its colonies (British Dependent Territories Citizenship [BDTC]), and ex-colonies (British Overseas Citizenship). It later enacted the British Nationality Act 1981 which commenced on 01 January 1983.

There was speculation that the Act is in preparation for the 1997 returning Hong Kong to stop Hong Kong CUKCs from claiming settlement in the UK, as 99%+ of the BDTC would be in Hong Kong. In the late 1970s, Britain was in economic austerities, racist political movement was on the rise. The Act formally separated BDTC in Hong Kong from British Citizens, and the BDTCs became British Overseas Citizens upon handing over Hong Kong to PRC in 1997.

1980 to 1989

Vietnam had been in a continuous state of war since WWII with Japan, then French (1946-54), America (1955-1975), and China (1979-1991). The war-torn country saw waves of Vietnamese seeking safe haven to French or America in earlier periods.

Since the Socialist Republic of Vietnam defeated America, many Vietnamese fleeing the new regime by boat, and the term "Vietnamese boat people" started to be used to describe Vietnamese refugees fleeing by boat, arriving in many Southeast Asian countries, this was intensified with the Sino-Vietnam War. By 1979, a total of

350,000 boat people in refugee camps in Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. An international convention was reached in 1979 the great majority of boat people were resettled in more developed countries. Significant numbers resettled in the United States, Canada, Italy, Australia, France, West Germany and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom accepted about 20,000 from Hong Kong camps. It is estimated that about 60% of the Vietnamese boat people resettled to the UK are ethnic Chinese.

The “Vietnamese boat people resettlement programme” arranged the accepted households transportation from the Hong Kong camps to the UK, first admitted in Reception Centres for three months of induction. Whilst the households were in the Reception Centres, local authorities processed their housing allocation and would be offered Council tenancy after the induction. When they left the Reception Centre, the household would have housing and benefits set up to start their lives in their new home. The induction involved a programme of English teaching, introduction of the UK system in employment, benefits, welfare, schools, health, public services and British life involving non-governmental organisations such as Save the Children, Refugees Council etc.

The Government requested that each local authority in the country to provide housing for a number of Vietnamese households ‘to spread the burden fairly. Many non-governmental organisations expressed concern that most of the Vietnamese would be housed to areas where there is little or no community support. The concerns fell on deaf ears.

Soon after the households were settled into the council tenancy, many found themselves living in small towns or rural areas where they were the only immigrant household. Shopping for daily ethnic groceries involved travelling hours to the nearest city. The lack of social connection and support, coupled with little or no prospect in getting employment, a movement of “secondary resettlement” soon took place.

Many gave up their council tenancy and moved to areas where there are clusters of Chinese residents, restaurants and shops, predominantly cities with sizable Chinese populations where they can get social support and potential employment.

The secondary resettlement movement supplied cheap labour to sustain Chinatown’s low wages labour intensive economy fuelling expansions in Chinese businesses. Alongside with the growth in catering, the nails and beauty, and garment making are new lines of industry also emerged amongst Vietnamese and Chinese businesses.

Similar to the Chinese community, a number of local authority funded Vietnamese communities centres also emerged following the Scarman Report.

The secondary settlement movement also fuelled territorial rivalry between the triad gangs and Vietnamese gangs in Chinatowns. In London, an illegal gambling den was firebombed, and the first of gang murder were happened in the 1980s as turf wars between the two sets of gangs.

The government Vietnamese Resettlement Programme adopted the dispersal policies placing emphasis in sharing the burden amongst local authorities. These policies proved to be a complete failure by the “voluntary secondary resettlement movement” whereby the Vietnamese households in remote areas with no community support chose to give up their permanent home to move to live with friends and relatives in cities whether they can find work and with community support.

According to the 2011 census, the cities with the most Vietnam-born residents are London (15,337), Birmingham (1,479), Manchester (865), Nottingham (405), Leeds (374), Northampton (322), Cambridge (259), Newcastle upon Tyne (245), Bristol (220) and Leicester (202). Three decades since the secondary resettlement movement, in London, Hackney, Lewisham and Southwark have a high Vietnamese population and clusters of Vietnamese businesses making significant contributions to the local economy. This demonstrates that community support networks are more important for migrants to rebuild their life in a new country.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnamese_people_in_the_United_Kingdom

1989 to pre-1997

Following the death of Mao Tze-Tung and the fall of the ‘Gang of Four’, Deng Xia-Ping started the economic reform in PRC from 1979. Accompanying the economic reform, demands for political reform had been continuous with the Democracy Wall movement in 1978-80, student protests advocating open up to the ideals of academic freedom, freedom of speech and freedom of the press in 1986, and occupation of the Tiananmen in protest against corruption and demand for democracy in 1989. All these were brutally being put down by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

With the Polish workers and citizens protests and demonstration in 1988 forcing the communist regime police state to talk with the leadership of Solidarność Trade Union, the CCP felt the threats from the students protests throughout the country and the occupation in Tiananmen Square by students, workers and citizens could go the same way as in Poland. The CCP decided to put down the demonstrations with army and tanks shooting live ammunition at unarmed students and protestors in Tiananmen Square.

The Tiananmen massacre shocked the world with the images of Tank Man who stood in front of a column of tanks leaving Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989. After the massacre, the Chinese Solidarity Campaign and National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) successfully lobbied the Government to grant a

year's exceptional leave to thousands of PRC students and visitors who were in the UK, of which many subsequently remained in the UK. In the years after the Tiananmen massacre, many more people from PRC came to the UK claiming asylum.

The aftermath of the Tiananmen massacre also triggered a wave of migration from Hong Kong in fear of the 1997 handing over of Hong Kong to PRC. To stabilise the situation, the then Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten offered 50,000 head of household and their family British Citizenship. Although the uptake of the scheme was fully subscribed most continued to live in Hong Kong well after the handover.

There was a small proportion that signed up when the Scheme came to settle in the UK, mainly from the HK Royal Police Force Political Surveillance Department under the colonial era. Some Macau citizen also came to settle in the UK, by means of the EU citizenship for Portuguese passport holders, near the time when Macau was handed over to PRC in 1999.

The post Tiananmen massacre PRC students, Hong Kong British Citizenship Scheme, and Macau citizens are predominantly English speaking and relatively affluent and resourceful, initially many are integrated to mainstream employment. They are able to use both mainstream advice services or Chinese community centres to access information and public services.

As China's continuous industrialisation and becoming the sweatshop of the world, encouraged by globalisation, many of the post Tiananmen massacre PRC students and asylum seekers turned themselves into different roles in China trade. PRC's flexing its newfound economic muscle started its soft ideology infiltration in western countries exporting Confucius Institutes, higher education students and sponsoring weekend Chinese schools. Very soon many PRC migrants who became settled here became the mouthpiece of the PRC. More than half of the TMG Min Quan thugs "pickets" who turned up at the Denise Ho's (pro-democracy Hong Kong singer) concert in London, are the post Tiananmen massacre asylum seekers. This same group is using physical threats and attacks to terrorise the community, especially on people who supports Hongkongers' democratic process.

Mid 1990s to mid-2000s

After the Tiananmen massacre, public gathering and political movement were completely suppressed. Under such circumstances people found their spiritual home in Falun Gong. Falun Gong started as practices of meditation, slow-moving energy exercises and regulated breathing. Falun Gong combines meditation and qigong exercises with a moral philosophy. The practice emphasizes morality and the cultivation of virtue, and identifies as a practice of the Buddhist school, though its teachings also incorporate elements drawn from Taoist traditions. Through moral rectitude and the practice of meditation, practitioners of Falun Gong aspire to eliminate attachments, and ultimately to achieve spiritual enlightenment.

Such self-spiritual improvement movement seemed harmless to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and enjoyed support from PRC officialdom in its early days. However as Falun Gong practitioners allegedly grew to 70 million by 1999, this alarmed the CCP which claimed to have 90 million members. In July 1999, the CCP declared Falun Gong as a “heretical organisation” that threatened social stability and started a crackdown on its practitioners. As the oppression of Falun Gong underway, the suppression of religious rights extended to all religious activities, in particular smaller religious sects. There are allegations with some evidence to suggest that Falun Gong members had been targeted for organ harvest.

Despite tight political control, economic liberation continued under Deng and Jiang Zemin. Globalisation enabled China to become the sweatshop for the world economy. Globalisation brought about economic and population growth in big cities and metropolitans, on the expenses of rural areas and the environment. Many peasants and village dwellers lost their livelihood and poverty drove many to find work in the cities, or aboard, to support families in the villages.

The Falun Gong practitioners and impoverished peasants and village dwellers were driven to the UK, often by organised criminal human trafficker gangs, applying for asylum after entering the UK.

These two groups are predominantly non-English speakers, paying tens of thousands of pounds to the human traffickers for the journey, then fees for the solicitors, etc. They were not allowed to work whilst the Home Office was processing their asylum application. Nearly all became undocumented workers in catering and building trade, or casual workforce in low pay labourers job market.

The undocumented workers from these groups carried a big debt upon entering the UK, with the traffickers/loan sharks on their back from arrival, and the immigration control forbidden asylum seeking from working, they became easy prey for criminals, unscrupulous Chinese professionals and employers to exploit. The steady supply of such desperate labours is the backbone to the rapid expansion of the Chinatown/Chinese community economies in this period.

It is not uncommon that many undocumented workers lived in an overcrowded accommodation with shared rota for bed spaces, and worked in unsafe working conditions with low paid and long hours. The Dover 58 and the Morecambe Bay tragedies are the results of a combination of PRC religious persecution, globalisation, inhumane immigration policies, human traffickers and unscrupulous Chinese employers in the UK.

Award winning journalist Hsiao Hung Pai's books, Chinese Whispers: The True Story Behind Britain's Hidden Army of Labour and her Scattered Sand: The Story of China's Rural Migrants gave insight to the live of Chinese undocumented workers.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hsiao-Hung_Pai

The human trafficking business relies on criminal network and organisation on a crossed continents scale, collection of the human trafficking fees, by instalments, from the large number of undocumented workers dispersed all over the country required an army of enforcers. The emerging of “Fujian gang”, the Hong Kong/New Territories triads and the Vietnamese gangs have a complicated web of collaborations and rivalries. In mid-2003, the first case of gunshot murder in board daylight happened in London Gerrard Street.

The Met Chinatown Unit said “as we thought we are about to identify and contain the triad activities in late 1979s, came the Vietnamese gang which are more violence and fearless as they’ve been through years of wars. It took nearly a decade to feel putting the triad/Vietnamese gangs under control; they found themselves with the Fujian gang arriving on the doorstep.”

Mid-2000s to mid-2010s

Globalisation and PRC growth in economic power brought about a middle class and superrich in PRC. With the history of CCP in corruption, constant political power struggle, and the constant threats of state confiscation of assets of losers in power struggle, no one can feel safe with their assets. Anyone with any substantial assets in PRC will always find ways to protect their assets by investing abroad, whether by means of investing in children to study abroad earning a settlement/passport, or by investments in asset and businesses aboard.

Fuelled with globalisation, the last two decades saw rapid expansion of investments from China, growing PRC businesses and personnel migration and increasing Chinese Embassy infiltration and interference in Chinese community affairs.

Two incidents to demonstrate the level of influence/infiltration of the Chinese Embassy in the Chinese community affairs:

There is a long tradition of weekend Chinese schools teaching Chinese children mother tongue and culture. It has always been a voluntary service sustained by school fees from parents. This is also very often the focal point for Chinese community to share information and experience in dealing with many problems of everyday life in a foreign land. In recent years, the Chinese Embassy instigated coups in many established Chinese schools, or funding new schools in rivalry to established ones, offering teaching at a third of the fees.

In the mid-2000s, two sets of personnel competed for the executive committee positions of the Fujian Association. There were threats and physical confrontations between the two factions. On the evening of the election, both sides have their gang members all geared up in London Chinatown for the election to take place. Twenty minutes before the election, someone from Chinese Embassy called the Fujian Association telling them that the Chinese embassy is sending a Fujianese PhD

student in an Embassy vehicle to the meeting. The same evening, both sides celebrated the "election" of a new Chairman in the form of the PhD student.