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## Rise to the Challenges: Civic engagement and social integration of BN(O) Hong Kongers in the UK

### Introduction

In January 2021, the UK government introduced the British National (Overseas) Visa (BN(O)) scheme to enable people in Hong Kong with BN(O) status and their immediate family members to live, work and study in the UK. Eligible Hong Kongers will be able to apply for settlement after 5 years if they meet the requirements, and British Citizenship 12 months after settlement. When the scheme was first introduced, the UK Home Office's estimated that between 123,000 and 153,700 people might come to the UK in the first year, and between 258,000 and 322,400 people over the first five years<sup>1</sup>. However, these figures are subject to a very high degree of uncertainty. According to a survey conducted by the Oxford University Migration Observatory, 6% of eligible Hong Kongers had either applied or would take action to apply for BN(O) visa in 2021, which means 186,000 Hong Kongers had either applied or would apply for BN(O) visa last year. The same surveyed estimated that 380,000 more would apply in 2022.<sup>2</sup> With the influx of new Hong Kongers to the UK, welcoming programmes have been launched to help Hong Kongers tackle basic problems. However, beyond settling basic needs such as housing and children's schooling, positive engagement in civic and community life are essential for social integration.

This research is jointly supported by the UK Welcome Hong Kongers Project and the Good Neighbour Church England, and is conducted by a research group consisting of academics and professionals. The aim of the research is to enable better understanding about the social and community lives of Hong Kongers in the UK so that tailor-

<sup>1</sup> Gower, M. & Kirk-Wade, E. (2021) *Briefing Paper: Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa*. House of Commons Library. Accessed from: [www.parliament.uk/commons-library](http://www.parliament.uk/commons-library) | [intranet.parliament.uk/commons-library](http://intranet.parliament.uk/commons-library) | [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Kan, M.Y., Richards, L. & Walsh, P.W. (2021) *The migration intentions of British National (Overseas) status in Hong Kong*, Migration Observatory, The University of Oxford. Accessed from: <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/the-migration-intentions-of-british-national-overseas-status-holders-in-hong-kong/>

	<p>made services could be designed and delivered to enhance more effective social participation and social integration. This study is an exploratory study and is the first of its kind in the UK. In the following sections, we shall introduce the research design and shall report on and discuss the findings. In the final part of this research, we shall discuss some major observation and shall bring up suggestions for future research and directions for future services.</p>
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<p><b>The Study</b></p>	<p><i>Aims and objectives</i></p> <p>The aim of this research is to explore the civic and community life of Hong Kongers in the UK and to understand the challenges they face and the approaches they adopt to meet these challenges in a 'new' society. This research, therefore, enables understanding about Hong Kongers and their paths towards social integration. It hopes to derive new insights in designing services beyond initial welcoming. Specific objectives of the research are as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To explore civic and political participation of Hong Kongers at the national level.</li> <li>b) To examine the availability of community support networks, affective ties and civic participation at the community level.</li> <li>c) To explore personal perceptions about the community and civic engagements.</li> </ul> <p><i>Design and Method</i></p> <p>As an exploratory study, this is the first of its kind. Respondents were Hong Kongers aged above 16 who came to the UK through BN(O) visa in the past two years or so (with a few who arrived before the scheme was formally launched). While probability sampling is not feasible at present, respondents were invited through Hong Kongers online networks and by snowballing. Data were collected through a structured online self-administered questionnaire. Informed consent was sought before data collection.</p> <p><i>The framework</i></p> <p>Civic engagement can be used as a broad concept, covering such aspects of social and political lives as political participation, social capital, social activism and social cohesion<sup>3</sup>. It is also a multi-dimensional construct which</p>
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<sup>3</sup> Prewitt, K., MacKie, C. & Habermann, H. (2014) *Civic engagement and social cohesion: Measuring*

	<p>includes both a 'manifest' as well as a 'latent' dimension of civic life.<sup>4</sup> In short, civic engagement involves a dynamic process of civic, social and political activities in the community. It constitutes social and political contents of the community, and it is also constituted by the availability of social capital of individuals in the society.</p> <p>In this study, civic engagement of Hong Kongers in the UK will be examined in three dimensions: civic participation, social capital and social connectedness, and social affectivity. All three dimensions of civic participation will be measured at the national, community as well as personal levels. Details of the analytical framework is attached in Appendix A.</p>
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*dimensions of social capital to inform policy*. National Research Council, USA

<sup>4</sup> Ekman, J. & Amna, E. (2012) "Political participation and civic engagement: Towards a new typology". *Human Affairs*, 22: 283-300.

## Major findings

### 1. Profile of the participants

#### *Age and gender (Chart A1)*

#### *Age and gender*

- A total number of 586 valid responses have been received, of which more than half (57.8%) were women, while 40.6% were men. 1.2% did not answer and 0.2% self-identified as transgender.
- As far as age distribution is concerned, 45.6% were between the age of 41-50; another quarter (23%) were at the age of 31-40, while about one fifth (18.1%) were in the age bracket of 51-60. Only 6% were young people aged 21-30. In other words, more are middle-aged adults.
- We are not able to tell whether the age and gender profile of the participants represent the whole population of BNO Hong Kongers in the UK because of the infeasibility to adopt a probability sampling method. However, the reasonably large sample size has provided a broad and reliable base for minimizing biases and for understanding the social and community life of Hong Kongers in this country.

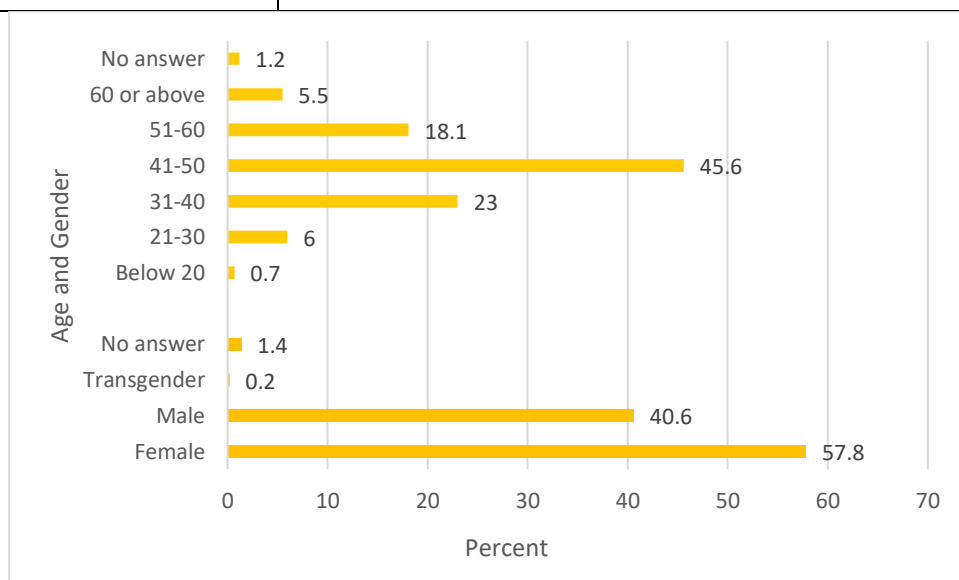
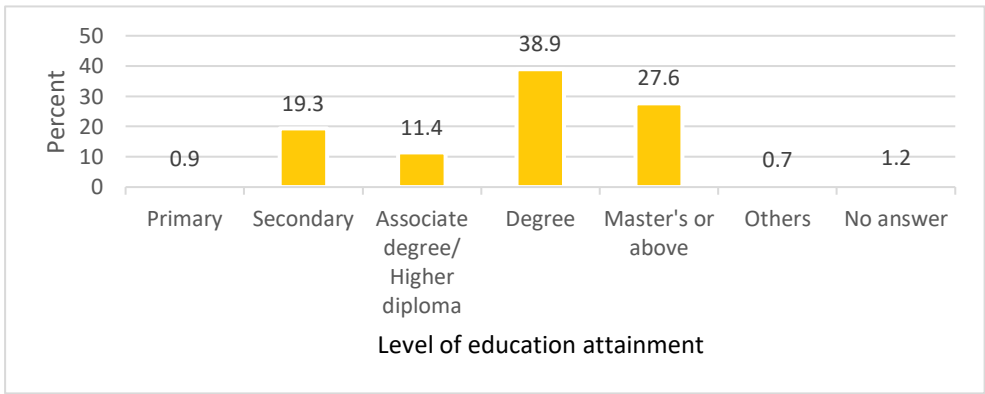


Chart A1 Profile of participants

<p><i>Education Background</i></p>	<p><i>Education Background (Chart A2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 38.9% of the participants had a university degree at the time of data collection, and more than a quarter (27.6%) had a master’s degree or a higher education attainment. In other words, two thirds of the participants (66.5%) have received university or higher education at the time of completing the questionnaire.</li> <li>● Slightly more than one tenth (11.4%) were holders of an associate degree or a higher diploma, which are often regarded as a pre-university degree in Hong Kong. Some higher diploma courses in Hong Kong are professional/technical training courses at post-secondary level.</li> <li>● About one fifth (19.3%) had attained secondary education before they came.</li> </ul>
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*Chart A2 Education background*

<p><i>Employment status and length of stay</i></p>	<p><i>Employment status and length of stay of participants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● About one fourth (22.5%) were in full-time employment at the time of data collection, while around one sixth (16%) were in part-time or flexible employment. Another one sixth (16.9%) were homemakers, while 10.2% claimed that they have retired. (<i>Chart A3</i>)</li> <li>● 28.8% reported that they were seeking job at the time</li> </ul>
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of filling the questionnaire.



Chart A3 Employment status

*Length of stay*

- As far as length of stay is concerned, about a quarter of the participants (26.1%) had come to the UK for less than 6 months, while another half (48.1%) have been staying here for 6 months to a year. In other words, three quarters have been here for less than or up to one year.
- Another 18.1% have come to the UK for 1 year to 1.5 year. Overall, the majority of our participants were BNO Hong Kongers who came to the UK in the past 12 months. (Chart A3a)

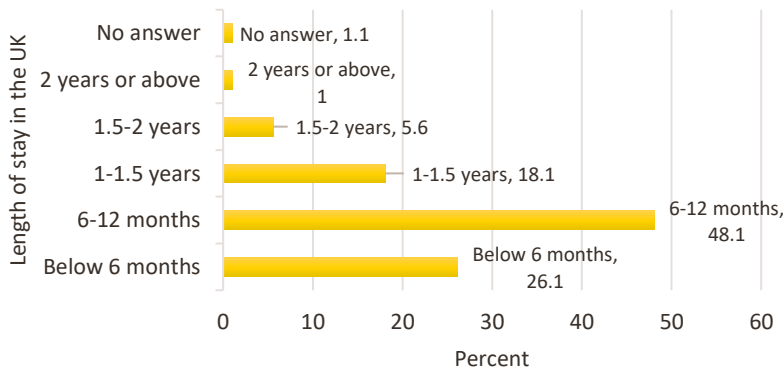


Chart A3a Length of stay in the UK

*Employment and length of stay: Crosstabulation*

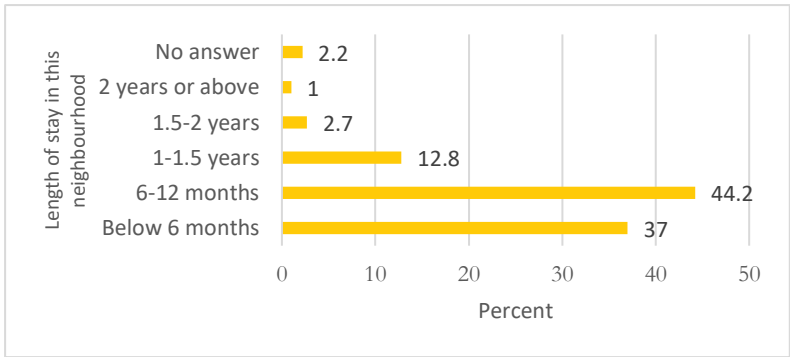
- Crosstabulation analyses show that employment status is associated with the length of stay: 47.9% of job seekers were newcomers (6 months or less). 12.4% were people who have come between 6 months to one year. Among those who have arrived for one year or more, only 0.9% self-identified as job seekers.
- Newcomers may encounter multiple new challenges



apart from job seeking, such as finding suitable accommodation, buying a property, finding school places for children, and learning and adjusting to a new way of life in the community. Many newcomers prefer to settle these tasks in the first few months before they start to look for a job. This perhaps partly explains why many job seekers are newcomers who are new to the UK.

*Length of stay in the present community*

- 44.2% have been living in the present neighbourhood for 6 to 12 months. Another 37% have been living there for less than 6 months. (Chart A4)

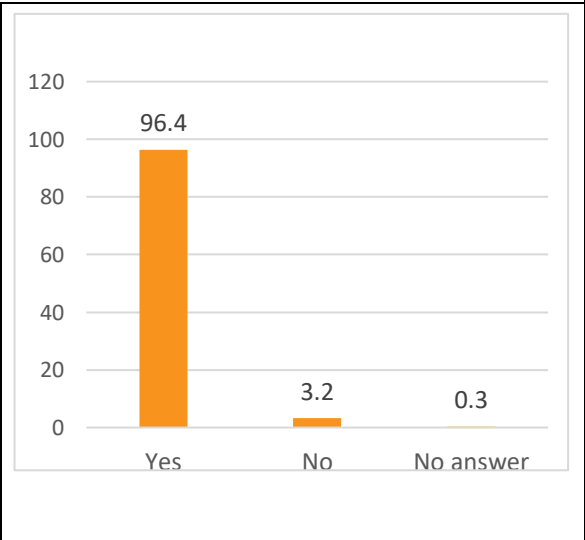


*Chart A4 Length of stay in the present community*

<p><b>Civic participation</b></p> <p><i>Awareness of voting rights</i></p>	<p><b>2. Civic Engagement at the national level</b></p> <p><b>B1 Civic participation</b></p> <p><i>Awareness of voting rights (Table &amp; Chart B1.1)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Our findings suggest that almost all participants (96.7%) were aware of their right to vote in local/national election.</li> <li>● Of those who were aware of their voting rights, 58.1% were female and 40.7% were male. Two thirds (66.8%) of those who were aware of their right to vote came from people with university or postgraduate education background. Three quarters (74.5%) had arrived the UK for at least 6 months at the time of completing the questionnaire.</li> <li>● Only 3.2% (19 participants) were not aware of their right to vote in elections.</li> </ul>
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*Table & Chart B1.1 Awareness of voting rights*

	Frequencies	%
No	19	3.2
Yes	565	96.4
No answer	2	.3
Total	586	100.0



<p><i>Voter's registration and Election turnout</i></p>	<p><i>Voter's registration and Election turnout (Table B1.2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A great majority (81.1%) indicated that they had registered as a voter.</li> <li>● Slightly more than half of them (56.2%) had turned out in the local election in May this year.</li> <li>● Almost all participants (98.8%) suggested that they will exercise their right to vote in future elections if they were eligible.</li> <li>● While turnout in local elections in the UK has always</li> </ul>
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been lower than in general elections and the turnout rate in local election in 2018 was 34.6%<sup>5</sup>, the turnout rate of BNO Hong Kongers in the most recent local election is apparently higher than their UK counterparts. This finding suggests, at least for the time being, Hong Kongers who have been deprived of their right to vote in Hong Kong, are enthusiastic and active in exercising their voting rights here in the UK.

- Election turnout is found to be significantly higher among people with university and above education attainment (71.8%) and people who had come to the UK for at least 6 months (73.7%).

	Yes	%	No	%	No answer	%	Total
Registered as a voter	473	80.7	110	18.8	3	0.5	586
Voted in recent election	326	55.6	254	43.3	6	1.0	586
Will vote in future elections	565	96.4	7	1.2	14	2.4	586

Table B1.2: Voter's Registration and Election Turnout

*Interest in social and political affairs*

*Interest in social and political affairs (TableB1.3)*

- Showing interest and getting involved in social and political affairs are two important indicators of civic participation. Findings of our study show that about half of the total participants (49.7%) agreed that they “concern about British politics”, while another 15.7% strongly agreed.
- Less than one third (30.9%) neither agreed nor disagreed. Only a tiny minority (3.4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed that they “concern about British politics”.
- Likewise, about half of the participants (46.6%) agreed that they had followed media reports about UK political issues, while more than one sixth (17.5%) strongly agreed.
- Less than 5% either disagreed or strongly disagreed

<sup>5</sup> Uberoi, E. (2021) *Turnout at Elections*. House of Commons Library.

<i>Interest in social and political affairs</i>	<p>that they had followed UK political news.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In other words, a majority of BNO Hong Kongers do concern and feel interested in the political agenda widely discussed in this country.</li> <li>● Participants who were between the age of 30-50 showed significantly more interest in political affairs than the other age groups. Participants' gender, education background and employment status are not associated.</li> <li>● Age, gender, education background and employment statuses of participants were found to have no significant difference in people's interest to follow media reports on British politics.</li> </ul>
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	Concern about British politics		Follow media reports	
	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%
Strongly agree	92	15.7	102	17.4
Agree	291	49.7	273	46.6
Neither agree nor disagree	180	30.7	180	30.7
Disagree	19	3.2	25	4.3
Strongly disagree	1	0.2	3	0.5
No answer	3	0.5	3	0.5
Total	586	100	586	100

*Table B1.3 Interest in Social and Political Affairs*

<i>Cognizant with British Political System</i>	<p><i>Cognizant with British Political System (Table B1.4)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Despite participants' interest in and concern about British politics, majority of them expressed that they neither agreed nor disagreed that they knew the British political system. Around one fifth agreed (17.4%) or strongly agreed (3.8%) that they were in the picture. Another one fourth disagreed (21%) or strongly disagreed (3.8%) that they were cognizant about the British political system.</li> <li>● Significantly more men indicated that they were cognizant with the British political system than women. A weaker association is also found between cognizance with the British political system and participants'</li> </ul>
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	<p>education background (<math>R=0.018</math>), where more people with higher education background expressed that they were cognizant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is no significant difference in terms of age, employment status and length of stay in the UK and participants' knowledge about the British political system.</li> </ul>	
	Frequency	%
Strongly disagree	22	3.8
Disagree	123	21.0
Neither agree nor disagree	314	53.6
Agree	102	17.4
Strongly agree	22	3.8
No answer	3	.5
Total	586	100.0

*Table B1.4 Cognizance with British political system*

<p><i>Participation in social and political activities</i></p>	<p><i>Participation in social and political activities (Table B1.5)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Despite the finding that majority of BNO Hong Kongers expressed interest in British political affairs, only one fifth (19.3%) had actually joined or attended activities related to UK political and social agendas. Rather, majority of them (80%) seemed to keep a distance from participating in local UK politics.</li> <li>● More research needs to be done to understand Hong Kongers' reservation to involve in British social and political agenda. One reason for this may be because of language barriers, and the channel of participation may not be easily accessible. Some support may be needed to</li> </ul>
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<p><i>Participation in social and political activities</i></p>	<p>bridge the gap between interest and action, so that those who are interested can effectively participate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Notwithstanding the finding above, participants appeared to be less reserved in joining events/activities related to international politics, such as protesting against Russian invasion of Ukraine and/or global warming. Our finding shows that around one third (30.4%) had participated in activities related to international political agendas, though an overarching majority (69.1%) indicated that they had not participated at all. One reason for less reservation in joining international events may be due to the nature of these activities where language and interpersonal communication is not so much required.</li> <li>● Interestingly, more than half of the participants (58.5%) revealed that they had participated in activities/events related to Hong Kong agenda. More research and deeper analysis have to be conducted in order to give a fuller explanation of this, but this could perhaps be explained, at least partly, by the fact that many BNO Hong Kongers in the UK, like many who remain in Hong Kong, feel deeply hurt about the social and political drawback happened in the past few years, e.g. the erosion of freedoms and disruption of democratic development, etc. Participation in activities related to Hong Kong Agenda is not only remembering the past, but it is a symbol of support for those who remain in Hong Kong.</li> <li>● Concerning about Hong Kong politics should not be seen as a factor leading to non- or low involvement in British politics. In fact they are not mutually exclusive. After all, no matter what the subject matters are, participation in actions</li> </ul>
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pertinent to citizen’s concerns is doubtlessly an indication of positive civic engagement.

- Participation in activities related to Hong Kong political and social affairs is found associated with the length of stay in the UK (Pearson’s  $R=0.000$ ), where significantly higher participation is observed among those who had come to the UK for 6 months to 1 year, compared to those who arrived longer ago. Nevertheless, it is not associated with other variables such as age, gender, education background and employment status.

	Concerning UK politics		Concerning international politics		Concerning Hong Kong politics	
	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%
Yes	113	19.3	178	30.4	343	58.5
No	469	80	405	69.1	236	40.3
No answer	4	0.7	3	0.5	7	1.2
Total	586	100	586	100	586	100

Table B1.5 Participation in social and political activities

**Trust in the government**

*Government policies benefit Hong Kong people*

**B2 Trust in the government**

*Government policies benefit Hong Kong people (Table B2)*

- Our findings suggest that a vast majority of BNO Hong Kongers in Britain believed that government policies really benefit Hong Kong people. Specifically, 86.2% of the participants strongly agreed (48.3%) or agreed (37.9%) that government policies were helpful. Only 1% held an opposite view.
- Trust towards government policies was overwhelming among the majority of participants irrespective of age, gender, employment, education background and people’s length of stay in the UK.
- In order to read the responses of this question

in a proper context, we must point out here that the question put forward to the participants was a general one, and we did not refer to any specific piece of government policy. On the one hand, this finding could be understood as a **'general trust'** – a trust that by and large, government policies were helpful and were beneficial for Hong Kongers. That said, however, even in the likelihood of a 'general trust', we still must be prudent and not to over-interpret that Hong Kongers in the UK would automatically support any policy that the government proposed, nor does the finding suggest that Hong Kong people will predominantly support this government in office in whatever circumstances.

- However, putting back into context, since it is highly likely the BN(O) visa scheme was the first British government policy that some Hong Kongers had experienced and found it helpful, it could reasonably be understood that the BN(O) visa scheme was overwhelmingly welcomed by the majority of the participants.

	Government policies are helpful		The government is trust-worthy	
	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%
Strongly agree	<b>283</b>	<b>48.3</b>	188	32.1
Agree	222	37.9	<b>329</b>	<b>56.1</b>
Neither agree nor disagree	72	12.3	62	10.6
Disagree	6	1.0	5	.9
Strongly disagree	1	.2	0	0
No answer	2	.3	2	.3
Total	586	100	586	100

*Table B2 Trust in the government*

*The government is trust-worthy (Table B2)*

- More than one second of our participants (56.1%) thought that the British government was trust-worthy. On top, another third (32.1%) held the same opinion. Overall, a vast majority



<p><i>The government is trust-worthy</i></p>	<p>(88.2%) expressed that the British government was trust-worthy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Our findings show that age, gender, employment status and length of stay in the UK did not constitute any significant statistical difference as far as trusting the government is concerned, although more women expressed trust in government policies and the government itself. In other words, trust in the British government appears to be consistently high across different age, gender, education background, whether or not they were employed, and how long they had stayed in the UK. (Chart B2.1)</li> <li>● Reading the above two variables together, we found that <b><i>there was an exceptionally strong trust towards the British government as a whole by Hong Kongers</i></b>. The level of trust given by BNO Hong Kongers is found to be much higher than their British counterparts where, according to OECD data, only 34.7% of people in the UK indicated that they trust the government in 2020.<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<p><i>The government is trust-worthy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is not easy for democratically elected governments to maintain such a high level of trust from their people in Western democracies. For example in the USA, the government was only trusted by 46.5% of its population in 2020, while in Canada trust was at 60% and France was at 40.6%. In the Nordic welfare states where trust has been stronger, the highest level of trust was enjoyed by Norway where the trust level was 82.9%.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>● Because of the use of different instrument, direct comparison with OECD data should be</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> OECD (2022), *Trust in government (indicator)*. doi: 10.1787/1de9675e-en (Accessed on 03 June 2022)

<sup>7</sup> ibid

	<p>treated with more caution. Yet this finding do warrant further exploration and follow up over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● However, if we compare the level of trust of Hong Kongers in the UK towards the British government and that of Hong Kong people towards the Hong Kong SAR government, we found that there is a huge difference between the two. (<i>Chart B2</i>) According to data of the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute, trust of Hong Kong people towards the SAR government in recent years had been extremely low. The lowest trust rate stood at 23.4% in June 2020. Though in July 2022 it increased to 47%,<sup>8</sup> there was still a gulf between Hong Kongers in Britain trusting the British government and their counterparts in Hong Kong trusting the Hong Kong SAR government.</li><li>● It is not easy to fully explain why so many BNO Hong Kong people have invested trust to the British government. One possible explanation is that this is a “protest vote” against the SAR government, to whom Hong Kongers in the UK felt so much angry and frustrated. Another possible explanation is that most Hong Kongers considered the BN(O) visa scheme (the policy) as a timely and substantial help for them. So, trust towards the British government was built on the perceived helpfulness of this policy.</li></ul>
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<sup>8</sup> Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (n.d.) *People’s trust in the SAR government: Half yearly average*. Accessed from <https://www.pori.hk/pop-poll/government-en/k001.html?lang=en>

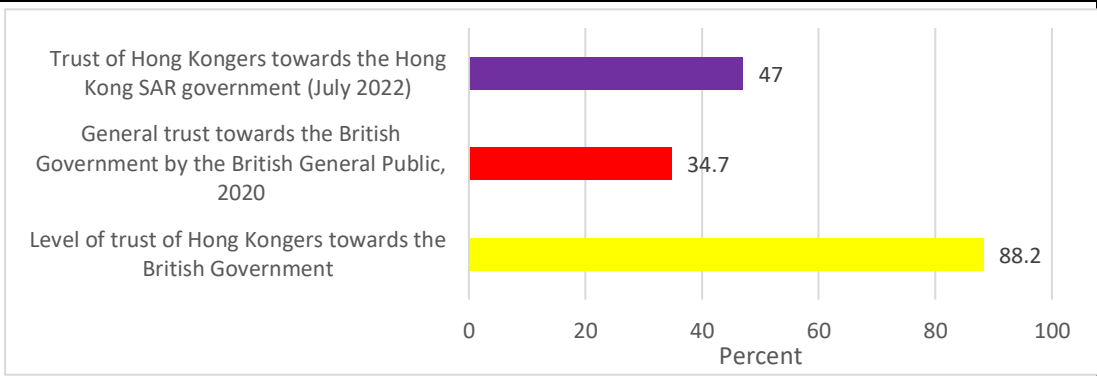


Chart B2 Trust in the government by various groups

*Two variables' analyses on Trust*

*Two variables' analyses*

- There is a strong correlation between the variables “government policies benefit BNO Hong Konger” and “the British government is trustworthy” ( $R=0.440^{**}$ ,  $Sig=0.000$ ). In other words, trust towards the government is associated with the perception that government policy has actually brought about substantial and timely help, assumably through the BN(O) visa scheme. Based on this we may be able to argue reasonably that trust towards the British government was grounded, at least partially, on the successful launch of the BN(O) visa scheme.
- Two variables analyses also suggest a correlation between “concern about British political issues” and “the government is trustworthy” ( $R=0.174^{**}$ ,  $Sig=0.000$ ). Because of the exploratory nature of this study, we did not attempt to embark on factor analyses, and so we are not able to tell the causal relationship between these two variables. However, we can still be reasonably certain that the concern about British political issues is related to the perception of government trustworthiness, and vice versa.
- In addition, “Concern about British political issues” is found to be correlated with “I have followed media reports about British political issues” ( $R=0.761^{**}$ ,  $Sig=0.000$ ). Moreover, it is also found as

<p><i>Two variables' analyses on trust</i></p>	<p>well as with “I have participated in local social and political activities (R=0.216**, Sig=0.000). In other words, concern about local social and political affairs could, to some extent, be regarded as a prerequisite for social and political participation. Interestingly, “Concern about British politics” is found not correlated with “participation in social and political activities related to Hong Kong”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Knowledge about British political system is also found correlated with trust in government (R=0.147**, Sig=0.000). This variable is also found to be correlated with other variables, including “I feel interested about British political issues” (R=0.423**, Sig=0.000); and participation in local social and political activities (R=.0201**, Sig=0.000). However, knowledge about British political system is not correlated with whether participants had participated in social and political activities related to Hong Kong.</li><li>● In a nutshell, interest in local news and political issues, concern about what’s happening in the local society, and knowledge about British political system all appear to be correlated to social and political participation. Moreover, trust in government and the belief that government policies are helpful are also correlated with knowledge about the local society and concern about what is going on in the society.</li><li>● Although correlation does not help prediction, it is quite prudent to suggest that in order to help BNO Hong Kongers engage in the society, there is a need to facilitate and enable a stronger interest, concern as well as knowledge in the local community among BNO Hong Kongers.</li></ul>
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“withhold” or “reserved”. Some may feel more secure to posit themselves at a safe distance while simultaneously learning through observing. Notwithstanding all these possibilities, how to help Hong Kongers build up meaningful community ties, encourage participation and establish sustainable relationships are essential for social integration in the long term.

	Frequencies	%
Very alienated	9	1.5
Rather alienated	81	13.9
Neither alienated nor close	322	54.9
Rather close	164	28.0
Very close	6	1.0
No answer	4	0.7
Total	586	100

Table C1.1 Perception towards Community relationships

*Community problem solving (Chart C1.2)*

- Fewer than one tenth of the participants opined that people in the community would join hands to solve community problems, such as cleaning and hygiene, should needs arise. Of these, only a tiny minority (1.2%) thought that people joining hands to solve community problems was highly possible, while only 6.3% believed that it would be rather possible for community joint actions to take place.
- On the contrary, about half of the participants thought that joint actions of residents in solving community problems would be a goal too far. Of these, 43.2% opined that it would be rather unlikely for residents to

join together to solve community problems, while 6.1% thought that it would not be possible at all. 42.7% held a 'wait-and-see' attitude.

- Similar perceptions were shared by people of all age groups, across different gender groups, education backgrounds as well as different length of stay in the UK as well as length of stay in the present neighbourhood that they live.

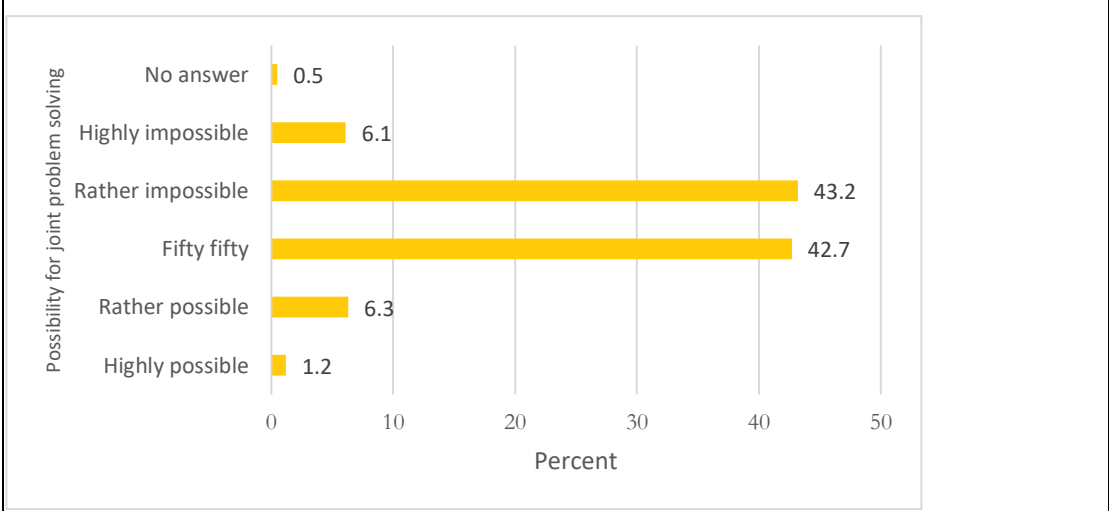


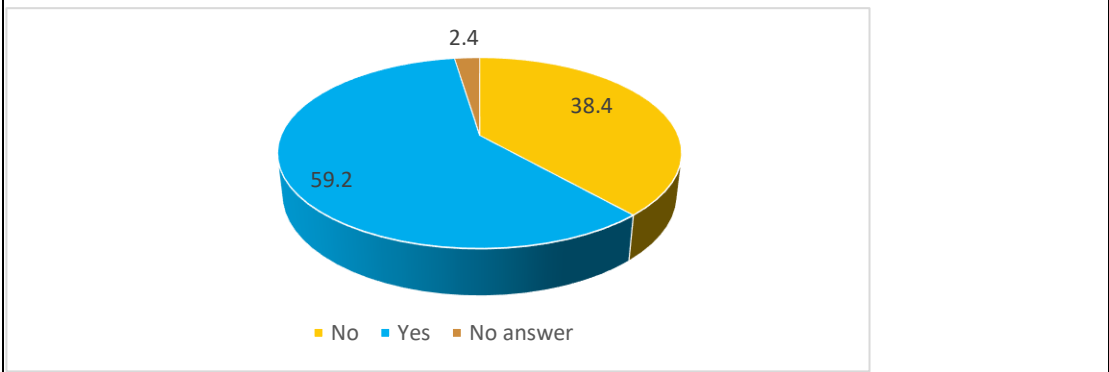
Chart C1.2 Community problem solving

*Local Authorities listen to Hong Kongers' opinions (Chart C1.3)*

- Being a member of the community, one would have various expectations towards community life, one of which is the expectation to be informed, heard, and to influence decision making in matters relating to perceived community interest.
- In this aspect of community life, more participants saw the local authorities as being able to listen to people's opinions and being willing to address people's needs. In this line, 59.2% of participants expressed that their opinions were valued by the local authorities, while 38.4% disagreed.
- Age appears to be associated with perception: in the age bracket between 41-50, 66% agreed that their views were valued by the local authorities, while only 34% disagreed. Likewise, in the age group of 51-60, 61%

*Local Authorities listen to Hong Kongers' opinions*

<p><i>Local Authorities listen to Hong Kongers' opinions</i></p>	<p>agreed that their views were valued while 39% disagreed. However, among those who aged between 21-30, 60% disagreed that their views were valued by the local authorities while only 40% agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Obviously, younger Hong Kongers tend to expect more recognition from the local authorities, and they tend to disagree more that their opinions were being heard and addressed. This is quite an important point for further study as far as civic engagement is concerned, and how to engage young Hong Kongers into the community should be an important task ahead for local authorities as well as for the organizations which help Hong Kongers.</li> <li>● Apart from age, no significant difference has been observed in participants' gender, education backgrounds. Employment status, and length of stay in the UK and in the neighbourhood they live.</li> </ul>
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*Chart C1.3 Local authorities listen to Hong Kongers' opinions*

<p><i>Influencing local authorities' decisions</i></p>	<p><i>Influencing local authorities' decisions (Chart C1.4)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participants were asked whether they believed they could influence local authority's decisions in delivering services for the community. Over half of the total participants (57.3%) expressed that they were not able to influence local authorities' decision making. Only 41% answered that they could do so. It seems that more Hong Kongers are holding a rather pragmatic expectation towards the local authorities, and they are not excessively optimistic about their influence in</li> </ul>
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policy making. That said, however, how much this pragmatic attitude may limit or reduce the motivation of Hong Kongers to participate in community affairs has to be further considered, because withholding expectation may end up in discouraging participation and, if prolonged, may developed into social disengagement.

- Crosstabulation analyses show no significant difference between participants’ age, gender, education backgrounds, employment statuses as well as length of stay in the UK.

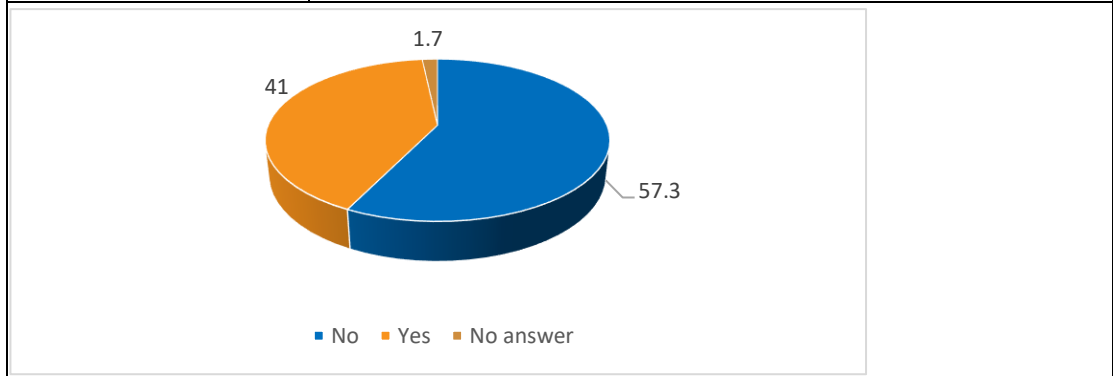


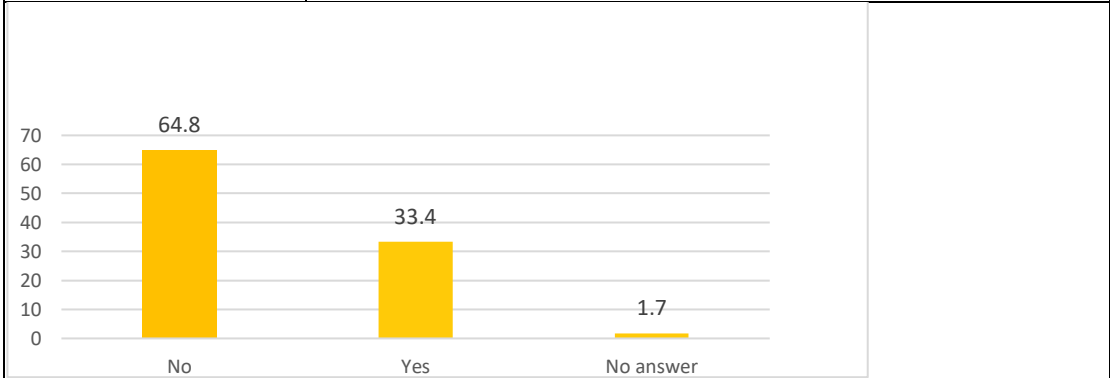
Chart C1.4 Can you influence local authority's decisions

*Make change in the community*

*Do you think you can make change in the community? (Chart C1.5)*

- One of the driving forces for people’s participation in community improvements is the belief that the community can change for the better, and that their participation can help effect change, no matter how small it might be. The disbelief that the community can change, or the disbelief that one’s participation might lead to change can become a reason of social apathy and disengagement.
- In this light, we asked the participants whether or not they believed they had the capacity to effect changes and make improvements in the community. In response to this question, about three quarters (64.8%) were of the view that they were not able to effect change in the community, and they did not believe they had the capacity to do so.

<p><i>Make change in the community</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Crosstabulation analyses suggest that the disbelief in one's own capacity to change the community in which one lives exists in all age groups, across different genders, employment conditions and the length of stay in the UK and in the present neighbourhood. However, education background of the participants does constitute some differences, i.e., more participants with higher education attainment for example, university education and above, believed that they could change the community, compared to their counterparts in the lower education groups. For example, 45.2% of people with postgraduate education believed that they could change the community, compared with 22.3% with secondary education. On the other hand, 77.7% in the secondary education group thought that they were not capable in effecting change in the community, while only 54.8% though so in the postgraduate education group.</li> </ul>
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*Chart C1.5 Do you think you can make change in the community*

<p><b>Trust, Sense of Security and Belonging</b></p> <p><i>Do you feel safe to walk alone at night</i></p>	<p><b>C2 Trust, Sense of Security and Belonging</b></p> <p><i>Do you feel safe to walk alone at night? (Chart C2.1)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Three quarters (75.3%) answered 'yes', while only one fourth (24.2%) gave a negative answer to this question.</li> <li>● Overall, there is no evidence to suggest any association of 'feeling unsafe to walk alone at night' with age, gender, and education backgrounds and length of stay of participants. However, we do observe that slightly</li> </ul>
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more women, people aged 61 or above, and the newly arrived (length of stay = below 6 months) indicated that they did not feel safe to walk alone at night.

- For example, 26.8% of female participants did not feel safe to alone at night, compared to 21.1% of male. In addition, 32.3% of people aged 61 or above expressed the same worry, while only 22.9% of the 21-30 age group shared the same feeling. Moreover, 31.4% of those who were newly arrived (6 months or below) did have a worry about safety, while only 9.1% of those who have been here for 1.5 to 2 years shared the same worry.

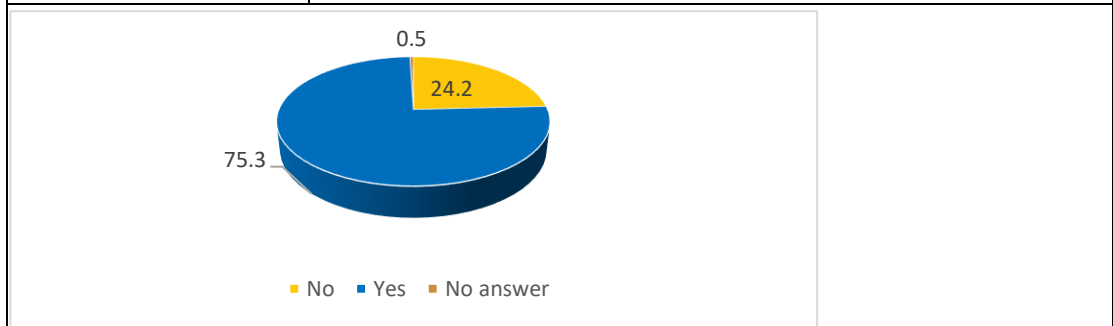


Chart C2.1 Do you feel safe to walk at night

*Do other people consider your community safe*

*Do other people consider your community safe (Chart C2.2)*

- This question was to ask the participants to consider a third-party perspective about the safety of the community and see whether or not there was a discrepancy and if so, how big or small it was.
- In response to this question, 83.4% answered 'Yes', while 16% answered 'No'. This piece of finding suggests that there is around 8% difference between participants' own perception of safety and that of other people in the community. In other words, about one tenth of the Hong Konger participants might feel unsafe while others in the community might not think so.
- While findings here may reflect by and large that Hong Kongers felt safe about their own community, we need to address the worry of the minority who are female, older adults and those who are newly arrived.

Probably some more community orientations, information about emergency support, as well as stronger neighbourhood supportive networks may help reduce the feeling of uneasiness.

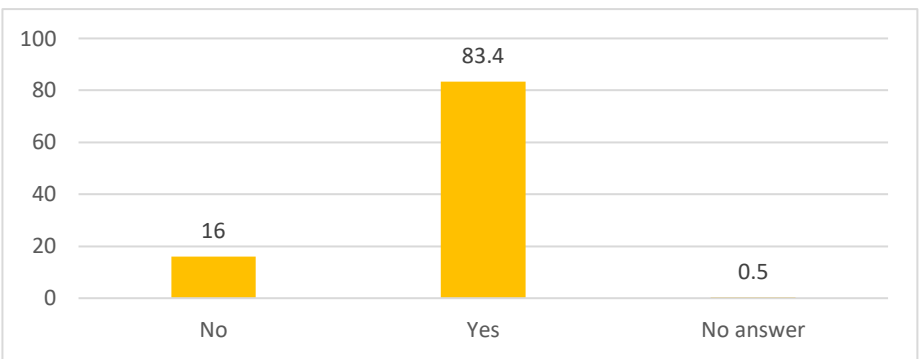


Chart C2.2 Do other people consider your community safe

*People in your community are trustworthy*

*People in your community are trustworthy? (Chart C2.3)*

- Apart from asking participants whether or not they felt safe in the community, we asked them whether or not they believed that most people in their communities were trustworthy. In response to this question, 53.9% rather agreed that most people in the community were trust-worthy, while another 6.3% strongly agreed. Added together, more than 60% considered people in the community trustworthy. Only a tiny minority (2.7%) held an opposite view, while another third (36.5%) answered 'fifty-fifty', which could mean neither trust nor untrust.
- Again, taking into account that most Hong Kongers were newcomers in the community, the fact that the majority of them felt safe and secure in the community and that a certain level of trust towards people had been built up imply that by and large Hong Kongers are settling in quite successfully. Crosstabulation analyses show that no significant difference had been found between gender, age, education background, and length of the stay of participants and trust towards the community.

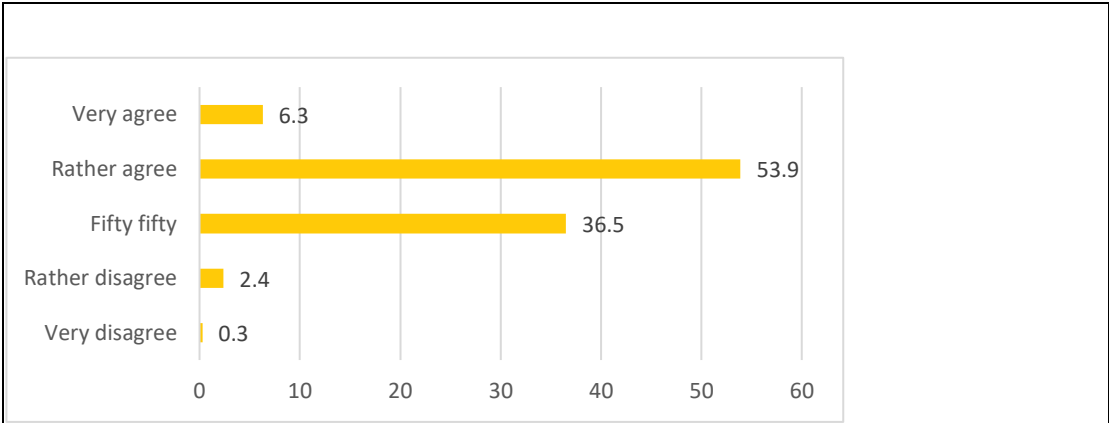


Chart C2.3 People in the community are trustworthy

	<p><i>Feeling the community as home (Chart C2.4)</i></p>
<p><i>Feeling the community as home</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Feeling safe, trusting people, and seeing the community as home are all defining components for social integration. Here we asked the participants how much they saw the community as their home. The findings show that 41.8% had a rather strong home feeling towards their community, while another 4.9% felt it very strongly. In short, fewer than half of our participants (46.7%) did see their community as home.</li> <li>● On the other hand, one tenth of our participants (10.9%) did not have a strong feeling of home towards the community in which they lived, while a tiny minority (3.1%) did not have such feeling at all. However, more than one third (38.7%) answered ‘fifty-fifty’, implying that quite a substantial number of Hong Kongers had not yet developed the feeling of home in the community in which they lived.</li> <li>● This reflects that Hong Kongers need time, resources, and support in order to settle down in a community where they can call home. This is probably true for all migrants who came to the UK, where Hong Kongers is of no exception.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Feeling the community as home and length of stay in the UK</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Crosstabulation analysis shows significant differences exist between people who have different length of stay. For example, only 37.3% of those who have stayed in the UK for less than 6 months felt rather strongly that the community in which they live is their home, but</li> </ul>

<p><i>Age and feeling the community as home</i></p>	<p>among those who have lived in the UK for 2 years or above 50% felt strongly about it. Contrarily, 45.8% of the newly arrived (6 months or below) were not sure whether they saw the community as home, but among those who have lived here for 2 years or above, only 16.7% were unsure. The findings here suggest that support to the newly arrived is imperative for them to settle down in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Age has been found to be another factor to consider, though it is not as strongly associated as length of stay. Our findings show that participants aged between 31 to 60 tended to be the ones who had the feeling of home, compared to the younger age group of 21-30 as well as 60 and above. One possible reason is that the middle-age groups are usually coming with their family and have a strong intention to settle in the UK when they leave Hong Kong.</li><li>● As for the younger age group (21-30), our findings suggest that they seem to have the least home feeling towards the community as. We need further research to establish meaningful understanding about this issue, but preliminarily we could perhaps postulate that some of the younger Hong Kongers came to the UK as a stop-gap, or interim measure, hoping that one day when the social and political conditions improve, they could then return to Hong Kong where they regard as their genuine home. So, for people in the younger age group many of them may not intend to devote themselves to build an 'emotional home' here in the UK. But the possibility of returning home is something rather uncertain for everyone. Therefore, how to work with young Hong Kongers and how to define the working objectives for this group of young adults is something that we need to consider more.</li></ul>
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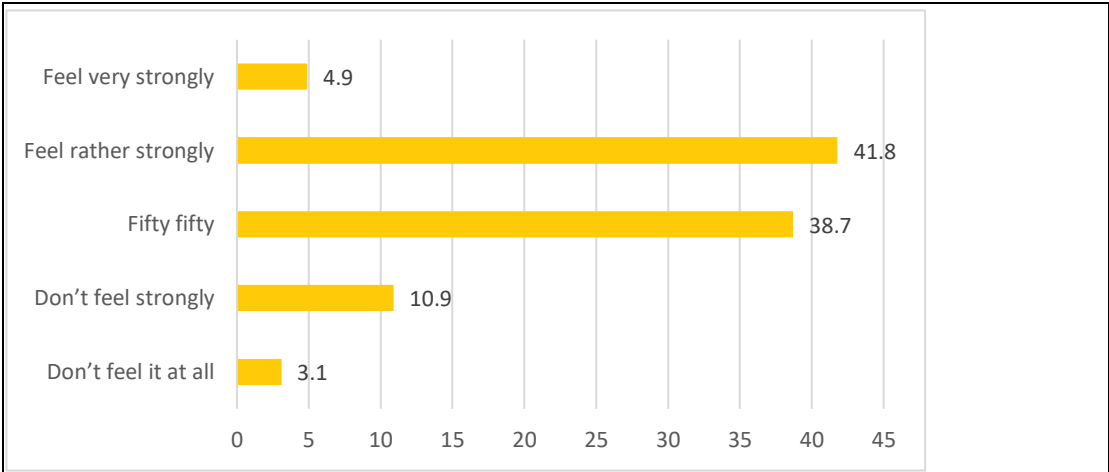


Chart C2.4 Feeling the community as your home

<p><i>Correlation analyses</i></p>	<p><i>Correlation analyses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We used Pearson R to look at correlation between defining the community as home and other variables such as trusting people in the community, feeling safe, perception of being able to effect change in the community as well as perception of being recognized by the local authorities. The result shows that strong correlations are established between all these variables. In other words, how much Hong Kongers defined the community in which they lived as home is associated with a series of factors: they feel safe in the community; they trust people in the community; they perceive they are listened to, and they believe they can make changes (Significance=0.000). In a nutshell, a strong sense of community sentiment, strong civic engagement and the capacity for community participation all work together to contribute to successful social integration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community support networks</b></p>	<p><b>C3 Community support networks</b></p> <p><i>Do you think your neighbours would offer help when you are in need? (Table C3.1)</i></p>

<i>Help from neighbour</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The availability of a durable mutual support network is not only a symbol of good community relationship, but also a strong foundation of community engagement. As for the Hong Kongers who are newcomers in the UK, whether or not they are able to engage in a sustainable mutual help network is thus an important indicator of social integration.</li> <li>● In this light, participants were asked whether they believed their neighbours would offer help in case they were in need. 59.2% answered they quite believed they would be helped by their neighbours if such needs arose, while another 14.2% very much believed so.</li> <li>● The finding here reflects a perceived neighbourhood relationship from the point of view of the participants, where around three quarters (73.4%) saw that help from neighbours would be available, which is a good sign of a mutual help network and neighbourhood relationship.</li> </ul>
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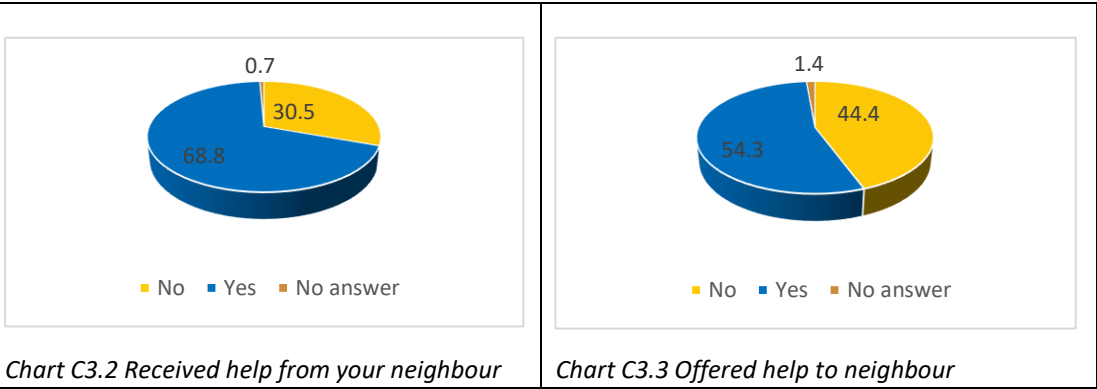
	Frequencies	%
Not at all	1	.2
Not much	19	3.2
Fifty fifty	132	22.5
Quite believe	347	59.2
Very much believe	83	14.2
No answer	4	.7
Total	586	100.0

*Table C3.1 Do you think your neighbours would offer help when you are in need?*

<i>Received help from neighbours</i>	<p><i>Have you ever received help from your neighbour? (Chart C3.2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Against perceived support in the previous question, this question attempts to address actual help received. The aim here is to see whether there is a gap between</li> </ul>
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	<p>subjective perception and objective reality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In response to this question, 68.8% answered they had received help from their neighbour since they arrived, while about a quarter (30.5%) indicated they had not. The finding here suggests that the perceived support matches quite neatly with the actual experience of people in the community, with 73.4% of perceived support against 68.8% of actual support received.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Have you ever helped your neighbour</i></p>	<p><i>Have you ever offered help to your neighbour (Chart C3.3)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reciprocity is often a cornerstone of sustainable support networks. In the case of Hong Kongers, we attempted to explore whether reciprocity exists between them and their neighbours. Our finding shows that over half of the participants (54.3%) had offered help to their neighbours, while quite a significant proportion of participants (44.4%) did not have that experience.</li> <li>● Apparently, there were more people who received help than those who offered help to their neighbours, and the difference was about 14%. This gap is quite understandable because as new members in the community it is natural that more become receivers than givers. But since giving and receiving is a dynamic and mutual process, reciprocity is essential for supportive relationship to be sustainable. We therefore consider it necessary to help Hong Kongers engage in reciprocal helping relationship with their neighbours rather than to only engage passively in neighbourhood relationships.</li> </ul>



*Have you ever been visited by at least one neighbour, or have you visited at least one neighbour? (Table C3.4)*

**Visiting neighbour**

- Two thirds of our participants (65.9%) had visited or had been visited by at least one neighbour.
- Crosstabulation analyses reflect that mutual visit between neighbours is highly related to perceived availability of help (R=0.000), the offer of help by neighbours (R=0.000), and offering help to neighbours (R=0.000).

	Frequencies	%
No	194	33.1
Yes	386	65.9
No answer	6	1.0
Total	586	100.0

*Table C3.4 Have your ever visited or have been visited by neighbours*

*How many close friends do you have?*

*How many close friends who you can seek help and confide with? (Chart C3.5)*

- More than a third of them (36.9%) said that they had more than five close friends who they could seek help from and confide with in case of needs. The median number of close friends was three.
- This finding show that majority of the participants did have a wide friendship network. However, we need also to pay attention to the small proportion (18.1%) who

had none at all, or had only one close friend to talk to or to seek help.

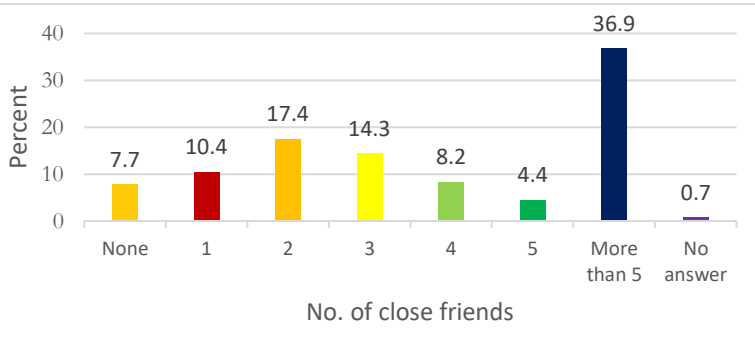


Chart C3.5 How many close friends do you have

*Who are your close friends*

*Who are your close friends? (Chart C3.6)*

- Participants were asked who their close friends were. The aim of this question was to tap whether their friendship networks were proximal or remote, through which we attempted to understand how far they had built relationships in the community in which they lived and how strong their ties with the community were.
- After deducted the non-responses, the finding here shows that the source of friends appears to be rather diverse, and many people had different combinations of source. Roughly speaking about one third (31.4%) had their close confidants in Hong Kong. Another third (35.9%) had a combination of confidants consisting of friends in Hong Kong. Apparently, for the majority of participants, friends in Hong Kong is the major source of help and confidence.
- Besides friends in Hong Kong, overseas Chinese were another important source of help and confidence. About one fifth (18.2%) had overseas Chinese close friends in the UK who have been living in the country for a long time. Another fifth (18.9%) also had a combination of confidants which involved overseas Chinese in the UK. By overseas Chinese we often refer to ethnic Chinese who came to the UK prior to the BN(O) visa scheme, and some may have lived here for

years. The reason for Hong Kongers to have overseas Chinese as close friends could be multiple: some may have known before they came; some others may have connected through friends' network. But one of the main reasons might be because overseas Chinese people who live in the UK tend to be more resourceful and they are more able to provide information and advice as well as other practice help.

- Less than one tenth (8%) had British or foreign confidants. Another 16.5% had a combination of close friends involving British or foreigners. Only a tiny minority (1.7%) had other BN(O) Hong Kongers as close friends who can give help in case of need.
- Overall, the data suggest that friends in Hong Kong remain the first line of support for Hong Kongers, followed by overseas Chinese.

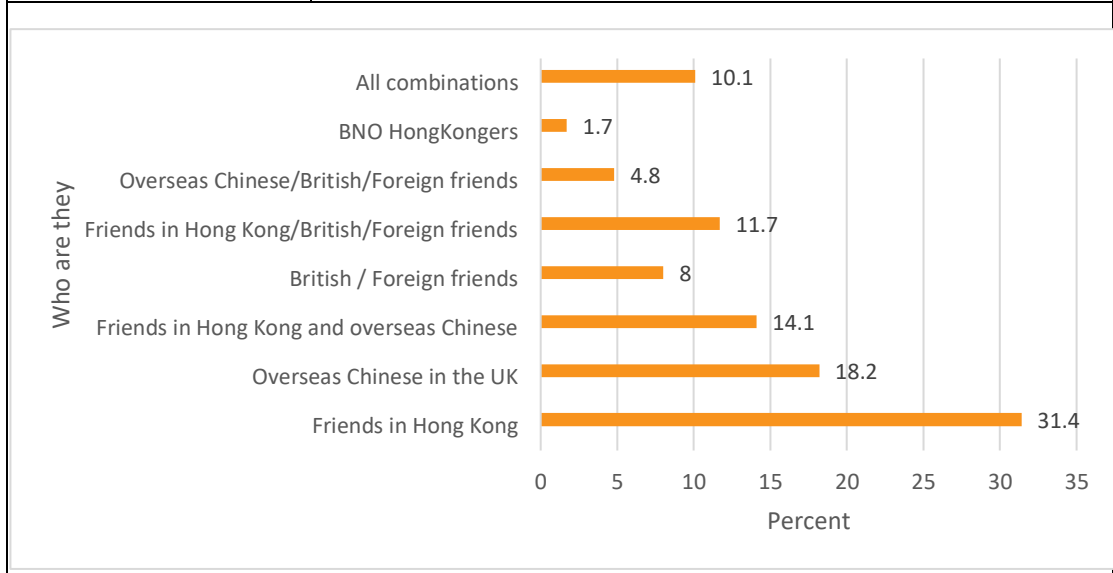


Chart C3.6 Who are your close friends

*Friends who can offer financial help*

*If you need a sum of money to help you tie over, how many people can you rely on (Chart C3.7)*

- Financial support is a sensitive and practical topic between friends. Having friends who can render financial assistance is a signal representing the presence of a close and reliable support network, although it does not necessarily imply that Hong Kongers are under financial crisis.

- Findings of this study shows that more than a quarter of our participants (27.8%) indicated that they had no one to render financial help to tie over a financial crisis should it arise. 40.1% either had one (15.5%) or two (24.6%) friends who could render emergency financial assistance. The median number of friends who could provide temporary financial support was 2.
- The finding here suggests that Hong Kongers in the UK appear to have connected to a viable support network, through which even financial assistance could be sought.

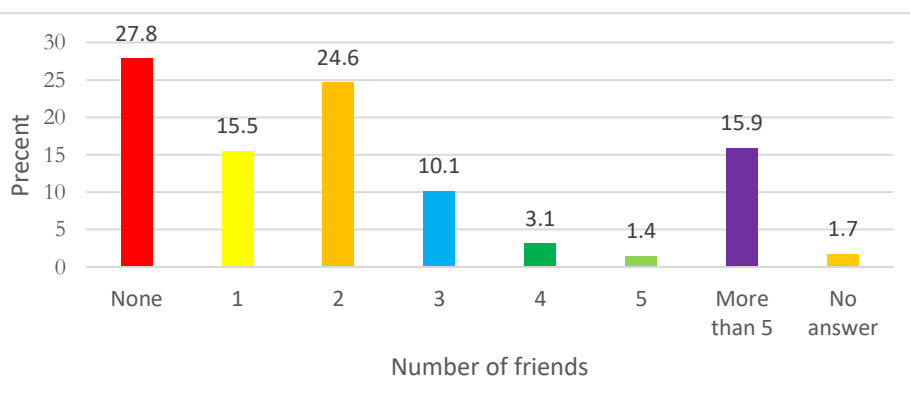


Chart C3.7 How many friends you can rely on for financial help

*Friends who can offer financial help*

*Who are the friends who can offer financial help? (Chart C3.8)*

- Here we also attempted to ascertain the ingredients of the network that Hong Kongers engaged with by asking who the people to whom financial assistance could be sought.
- After deducted the non-responses, the majority (60.5%) had the major source of possible financial assistance from friends or relatives in Hong Kong. Slightly more than one tenth (12.3%) might sought financial help from overseas Chinese friends. Other sources involving friends in Hong Kong take up 21.1%. Obviously, friends and relatives in Hong Kong is still the major source of financial help in case of need.
- The finding here reflects rather obviously that the

major reliable support network of BN(O) Hong Kongers, both in terms of confiding and financial assistance, is still friends and relatives in Hong Kong. One may be able to argue that this is the root of BN(O) Hong Kongers and their emotional and practical ties with the root are still strong and reliable.

- We consider that support networks are not zero-sum. Maintaining ties in Hong Kong which is the root of BN(O) Hong Kongers does not necessarily mean weakening the ability to establish friendship and support networks in the UK. This is especially true for Hong Kongers in the initial period after they relocated to the UK. What we need to consider is how to help Hong Kongers develop local community support networks and integrate in the local community while maintaining emotional and practical ties with the Hong Kong root.

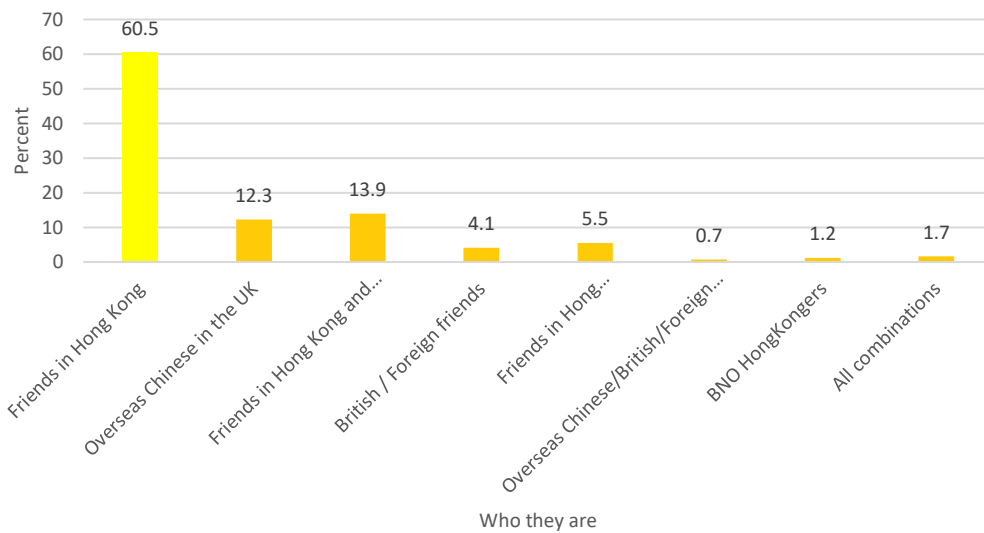


Chart C3.8 Who can offer financial help

<p><b>Personal civic engagement experience</b></p> <p><i>Being a member of a local organization</i></p>	<p>● <b>Civic engagement at the Personal Level</b></p> <p><b>D1 Personal civic engagement experience</b></p> <p><i>Being a member of a local organization (Table D1.1)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participants were asked whether they had joined any local organization, including professional, charitable and political organizations, as a member. This is often regarded as a symbol of personal engagement in the society.</li> <li>● In response to this question, 72.7% answered ‘no’. Only about one fourth (26.6%) had involved themselves as a member of a local organization since they arrived.</li> <li>● Crosstabulation analyses show that participation in local organizations has no significant association with participants’ age, gender, education background and length of stay in the UK, although more participants in the higher education group, i.e., postgraduate education or above, have become a member of a local organization (32.1%) compared to 18.6% of their secondary education counterparts.</li> </ul>																
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Frequencies</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>426</td> <td>72.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>156</td> <td>26.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No answer</td> <td>4</td> <td>.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>586</td> <td>100.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Frequencies	%	No	426	72.7	Yes	156	26.6	No answer	4	.7	Total	586	100.0
	Frequencies	%															
No	426	72.7															
Yes	156	26.6															
No answer	4	.7															
Total	586	100.0															
<p><i>Table D1.1 Being a member of a local organization</i></p>																	
<p><i>Served as a volunteer</i></p>	<p><i>Have you served at least once as a volunteer? (Chart D1.2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Two thirds (65.4%) had never served as a volunteer since they arrived.</li> <li>● Crosstabulation analyses show that that serving as a</li> </ul>																

volunteer has no significant association with participants' gender, age, education and employment background, but is related to their length of stay (R=0.000).

- Specifically, newly arrived Hong Kongers, i.e., those who arrived in the recent 6 months have the lowest volunteer participation (18.3%), compared to those who have been here longer (e.g., 33.3% among the 2-year or above group, and 60.6% among the 1.5-to-2-year group). This is largely due to the fact that volunteer participation is not an immediate need of newcomers, and many of them may need to resolve problems related to housing, employment and/or children's schooling.

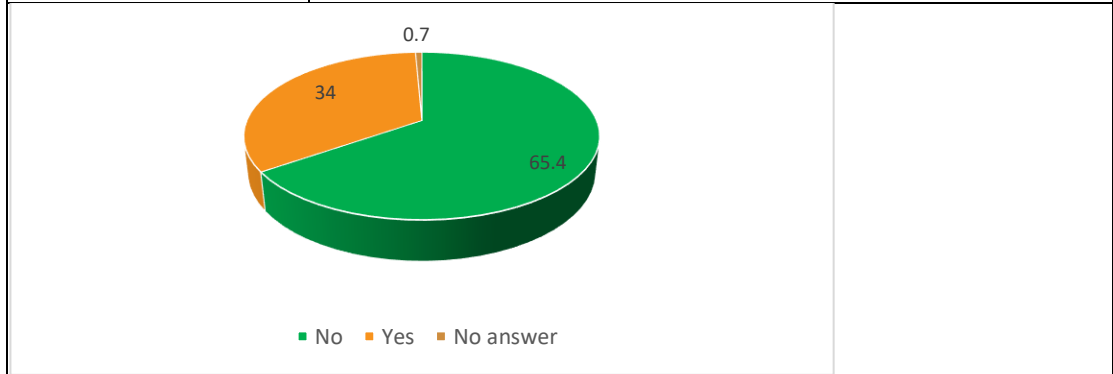


Chart D1.2 Have you ever served as a volunteer

*Served people with special needs*

*Have you ever served people with a special need who are / are not living with you? (Chart D1.3)*

- A vast majority (79%) responded that they had not served any people in the community who are in illness, having a disability, or in old age. They had not served anyone with special needs who are living together.
- Findings in this section show that our participants were not particularly active in serving in the community, nor had they been active in their own personal participation in local organization. A great majority have not joined any local organizations as a member, nor have served as a volunteer. This reflects that personal civic engagement of BNO Hong Kongers can be strengthened, because the stronger personal



participation, the more likely people feel that they are a member of the community.

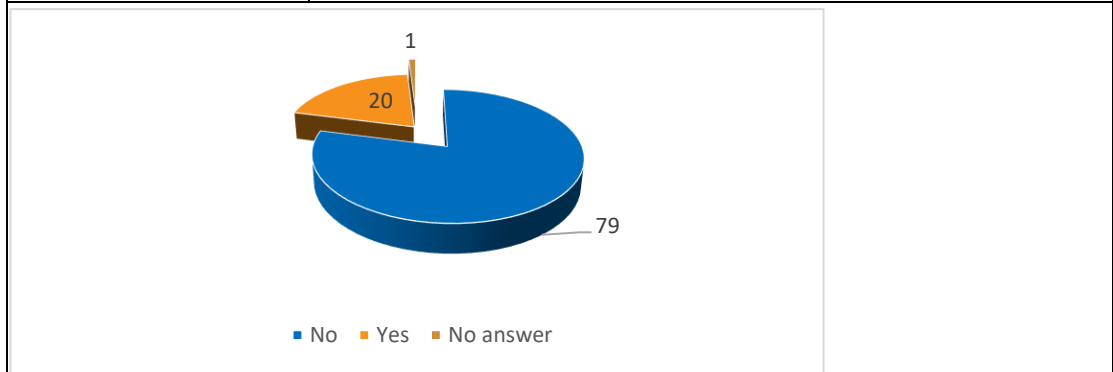


Chart D1.3 Have you ever served people with special needs

<p><b>Personal connectedness</b></p> <p><i>Is help available when needs arise</i></p>	<p><b>D2 Personal connectedness</b></p> <p><i>Is help available when needs arise? (Table D2.1)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants were asked whether or not they had at least one person around who would offer help or support in case of need. Almost 90% of our participants answered 'yes', reflecting that they were connected to a support network of some kind.</li> </ul>
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	Frequencies	%
No	56	9.6
Yes	524	89.4
No answer	6	1.0
Total	586	100.0

Table D2.1 Do you have at least one person around who would be able to offer help?

<p><i>Do you have a close friend around</i></p>	<p><i>Do you have a close friend around who you have frequent contact? (Chart D2.2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority (77.6%) had at least one close friend around who maintained frequent contact. However, one fifth (20.6%) did not have any confidant around who they could keep close and frequent contact.</li> <li>Due concern should be given to the substantial number</li> </ul>
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of Hong Kongers who do not actively engage themselves in the community and do not have a confidant who could offer help whenever necessary.

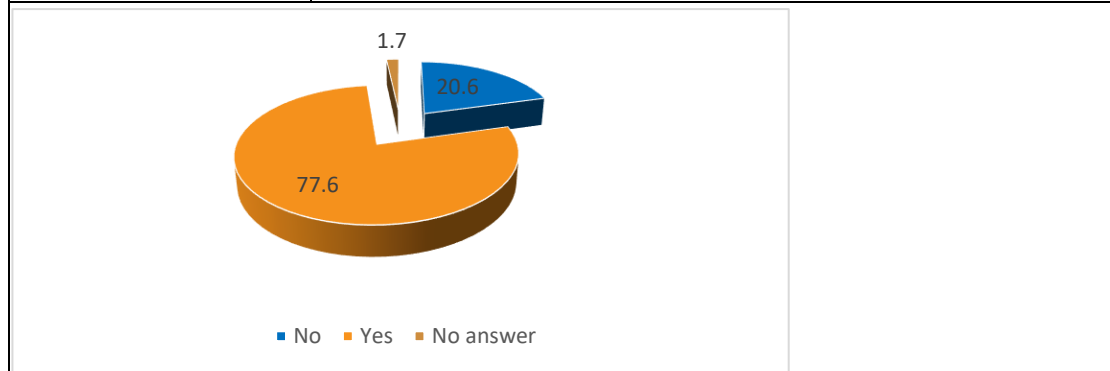


Chart D2.2 Do you have a close friend around

*Seeing friends and relatives*

*Did you see friends, relatives, or colleagues at least once a week?*

- More than two thirds of our participants (71.5%) expressed that they saw either a friend, a relative or a colleague at least once a week. More than a quarter (27.6%) said that they did not do so.

*Chatted with friends online*

*Have you chatted with friends online? (Chart D2.3)*

- Online meeting and online chatting has become one of the common communication channels between people especially under the pandemic. This question intended to ask whether virtual support networks were active among Hong Kongers, and if so, who were they virtually engaged with.
- A vast majority of the participants (93.9%) answered that they had online chats with friends after they came to live in the UK.

*Online confidants*

*Who are your online confidants?*

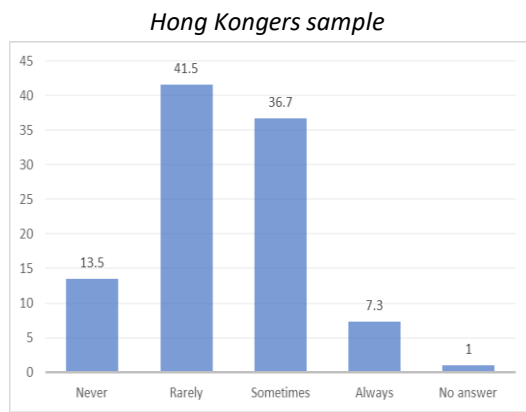
- Almost all of their online confidants (96.9%) were Hong Kongers, in which 59.6% were friends who were still living in Hong Kong, while another 37.3% were Hong Kongers who currently live in the UK. Only a few (3.1%) online chatted with local friends.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Crosstabulation analyses show that newcomers (i.e., arrived below 6 months) more often have online confidants who live in Hong Kong, while those who have come for over a year have more confidants who are Hong Kongers who live in the UK. In both groups very few have online confidants who are local non-Hong Kong people.</li> <li>● This raises some concerns about the composition of support networks of Hong Kongers, in which majority of confidants are actually Hong Kongers themselves. While it is quite natural for migrant communities to have networks of their own ethnic groups, how much does it imply difficulties in forming mutual support relationship with other ethnic groups in Britain, and how much does it imply additional resources for professional support should be an issue to be further research.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Loneliness, discrimination and trust</b></p> <p><i>Did you often feel lonely?</i></p>	<p><b>D3 Loneliness, discrimination and trust</b></p> <p><i>Did you often feel lonely? (Chart D3.1)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Loneliness and social isolation can be two sides of a coin. Loneliness can be felt by migrants who are new in the UK, it could also happen among local residents of different ethnic backgrounds.</li> <li>● Our study shows that 13.5% of the participants never felt lonely, while 41.5% rarely had that feeling. However, still there were more than one third (36.7%) who felt lonely some of the time, while 7.3% felt often/always felt lonely.</li> <li>● According to official statistics published in the <i>Wellbeing and Loneliness – Community Life Survey 2020/2021</i> conducted by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in 2021<sup>9</sup>, 6% of people in</li> </ul>

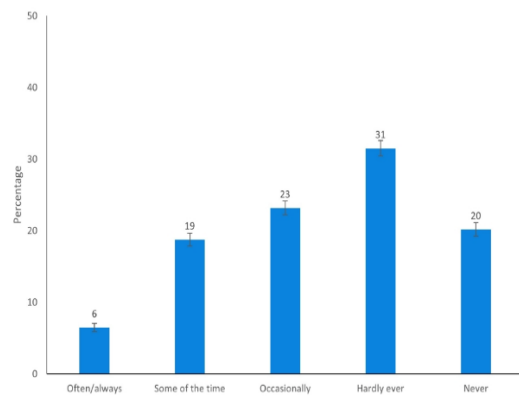
<sup>9</sup> Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport (2021) *Official Statistics: Wellbeing and Loneliness: Community Life Survey 2020/2021*, published on 29 July 2021. Retrieved from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/community-life-survey-202021-wellbeing-and-loneliness/wellbeing-and-loneliness-community-life-survey-202021>

<p><i>Did you often feel lonely</i></p>	<p>England often/always felt lonely, 19% felt lonely some of the time, while 23% reported that they felt lonely occasionally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● While it is not possible to compare scientifically two different sets of findings directly because of different research design and measurement, yet if we take the England’s survey as a reference point, we could find that the loneliness ratio of BNO Hong Kongers appears to be slightly higher than their English counterparts. For example, 7.3% of our Hong Kongers sample often/always felt lonely, while only 6% of the English counterparts shared the same feeling. Also, while 20% of the England samples never felt lonely, relatively less Hong Kongers (13.5%) felt the same.</li> <li>● What needs particular attention is the group who sometimes feel lonely – while 19% of the local group felt lonely some of the time, many more Hong Kongers (36.7%) had such feeling.</li> <li>● No significant difference was found between men and women. But as far as age of participants is concerned, more people below 30 years old often/always felt lonely (average 25.4%) compared to their older counterparts (i.e., 4.1% among people aged between 41 to 50; 6.6% of people aged 51 to 60; and 6.5% aged 61 and above).</li> <li>● We have not established any evidence to suggest that the feeling of loneliness is associated with participants’ employment conditions, their education background and their length of stay.</li> <li>● That said, there is a case to look deeper at the young Hong Kongers through further research as to why more of them feel lonely than their senior counterparts. For the time being, more attention should be focused on this group of young people so as to enhance their social well-being in the UK.</li> </ul>
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**Chart D3.1 Did you often feel lonely**



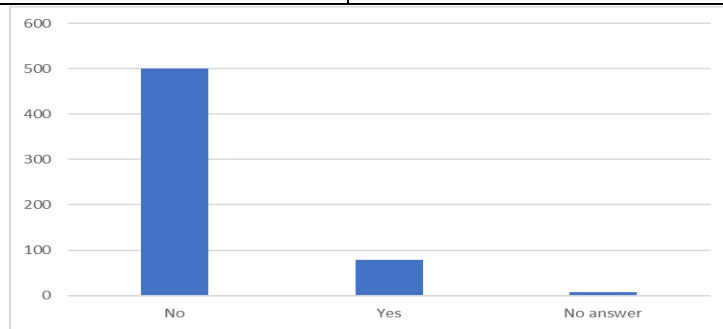
**Samples from England**



*Being discriminated or excluded*

*Experience of being discriminated or excluded*

- Apart from understanding participants' feeling of loneliness, we also asked whether they (including their family members) had experienced being discriminated or excluded in the community, including in school, workplace as well as in other public places.
- Our findings show that a great majority of them (85.3%) did not have such an experience. However, around one eighth (13.5%) had experienced being discriminated or excluded.



**Chart D3.2 Experience of being discriminated or excluded**

*Who experienced discrimination?*

*Who were being discriminated or excluded? (Chart D3.3)*

- Discrimination and social exclusion are something that should not be accepted nor tolerated. Therefore, it must be addressed regardless how few people have that experience in everyday life.
- Although statistically experience of discrimination

and exclusion has not been found to be associated with participants' personal profile, and causes of discrimination are often multi-faceted, we do however find through crosstabulation analyses who in our samples experienced being discriminated and excluded.

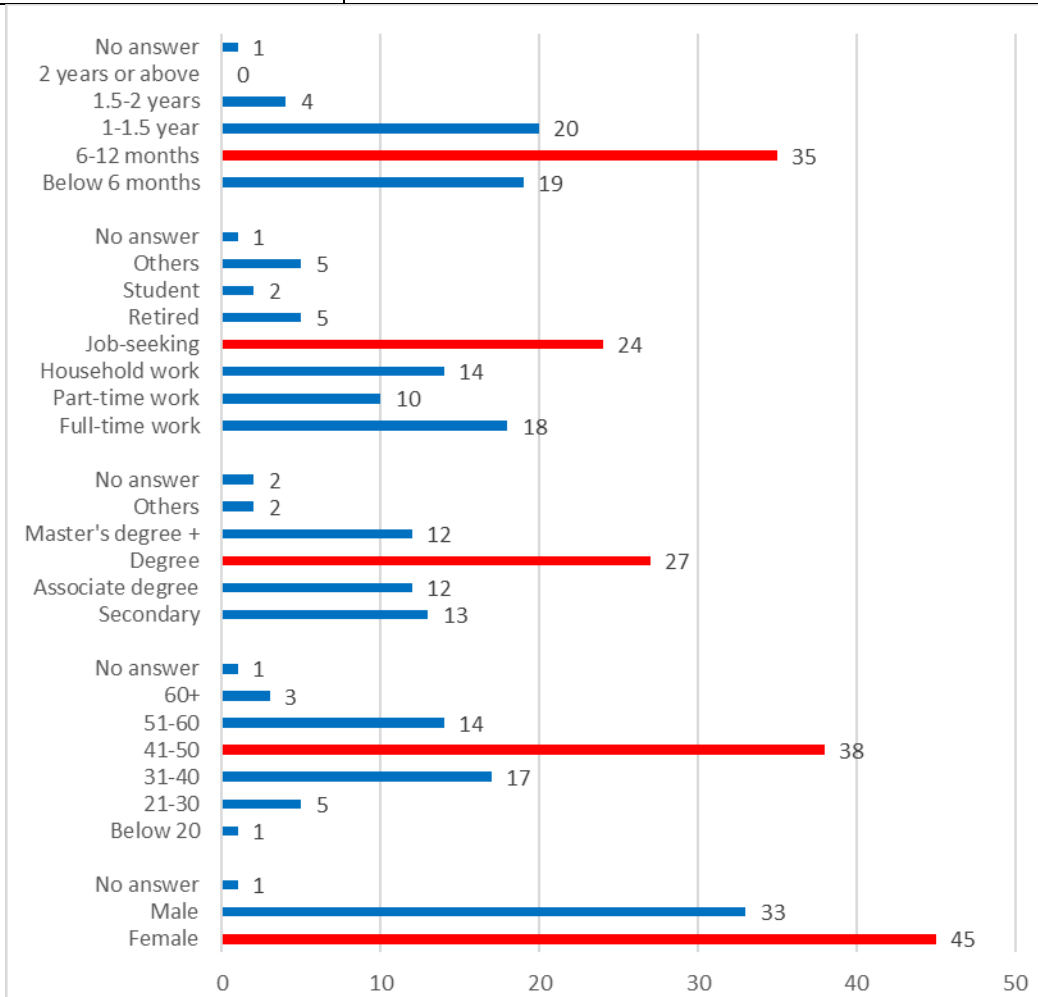


Chart D3.3 Who experienced discrimination?

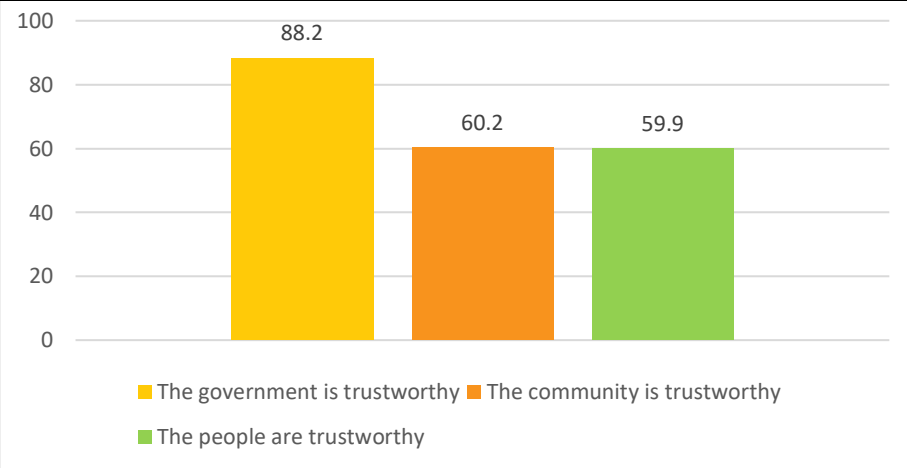
Who experienced discrimination?

- Our analyses above suggested more female experienced discrimination and exclusion than male. More participants aged between 41-50 had that experience. More people experienced discrimination had a university degree. More people who are job-seeking and have been in the UK for 6 months to one year experienced being discriminated and excluded.
- We must reiterate here that only a small minority of Hong Kongers had experienced being

	<p>discriminated and excluded. Yet the profile above suggests that some work needs to be done to help Hong Kongers either to prevent from being discriminated or to handle discrimination and exclusion when they happen.</p>	
<p><i>Trust in people</i></p>	<p><i>Personal trust towards people in the UK (Table D3.4)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trust is an indispensable constituting element in community life, without which migrants would struggle even more in integrating in the society. There is no exception for BNO Hong Kongers. In this study we look at the element of trust in 3 level: whether they trust the government in the national level; whether they fellow residents in the community level, and here we asked them in the personal level whether they trust people in their everyday experience.</li> <li>● Here, around sixty percent of the participants indicated that people in the society were trustworthy. 6% expressed the otherwise, while one third (33.8%) said they were not sure.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Frequencies</p>	<p>%</p>
<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Not sure</p> <p>No answer</p>	<p>35</p> <p>348</p> <p>198</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6.0</p> <p>59.4</p> <p>33.8</p> <p>.9</p>
<p>Total</p>	<p>586</p>	<p>100.0</p>
<p><i>Table D3.4 Are people here generally trustworthy?</i></p>		
<p><i>Different levels of trust</i></p>	<p><i>Different levels of trust (Chart D3.5)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The chart below shows the different levels of trust among Hong Kongers. Overall, majority of Hong Kongers (around 60%) put trust on the community</li> </ul>	

*Different levels of trust*

as well as people in the country. Only very few mistrusted either the community or people in the society in general. However, as reported in the earlier section, the government has won the most support from BNO Hong Kongers, compared to the local community and the general public.



*Chart D3.5 Comparing different levels of trust*



## Observations and Suggestions for the Future

1. BN(O) Hong Kongers are motivated newcomers. Most of them are highly educated and are knowledgeable in their respective life worlds. Our findings suggest that most of these Hong Kongers hold positive attitudes towards the UK and have active intention to integrate in the British society. This can be reflected by the high voters' registration rate, high turnout rate in local election, and high intention to vote in future elections. In other words, motivation for active engagement and social integration is found to strong among BN(O) Hong Kongers in the UK.

*Our findings suggest that most of these Hong Kongers hold positive attitudes towards the UK and have active intention to integrate in the British society. In other words, motivation for active engagement and social integration is found to strong among BN(O) Hong Kongers in the UK.*

2. In addition to the positive intention for integration, our findings also suggest that most BN(O) Hong Kongers hold active trust towards the government. Most thought that UK government policies are helpful. These findings imply a successful starting point where newcomers from Hong Kong felt the friendliness of the host society and they felt being welcome. However, reading from the context of recent political changes in Hong Kong, it is not surprised that some BN(O) Hong Kongers may experience a sharp contrast between what they witnessed in Hong Kong and what they experience now in the UK In this light, the high level of trust towards the British government may have to be read with more caution. On the one hand, it may be taken as a 'protest vote' against their previous Hong Kong experience. On the other hand, it could also imply an expectation towards the UK government. So, once the expectation failed as time goes by, there might be a possibility of diminishing enthusiasm and growing

	<p>disappointment. <b>We consider it essential to take early actions to build upon the goodwill and positive motivation of Hong Kongers so as to consolidate trust based on deeper knowledge and actual experience of the democratic institution and democratic lives in the UK. To achieve this end, more efforts must be put in the community to broaden and deepen civic participation to enhance social integration.</b></p>
<p><i>Our findings also suggest that most BN(O) Hong Kongers hold active trust towards the government. Most thought that UK government policies are helpful. These findings imply a successful starting point where newcomers from Hong Kong felt the friendliness of the host society and they felt being welcome. We consider it essential to take early actions to build upon the goodwill and positive motivation of Hong Kongers so as to consolidate trust based on deeper knowledge and actual experience of the democratic institution and democratic lives in the UK.</i></p>	
	<p>3. Findings of our research also reveal a paradox: high voting turnout and voting intention on the one hand, and low actual participation in community affairs on the other. For example, very few people (1.2%) believed that joint action for community improvement was possible; while 64.8% believed that they were not able to effect change in the community. This is quite a difficult combination. There are several possible explanations: First, it is a cultural product manufactured by Hong Kong social policy ideology – that all community problems are personal and should be dealt with, first, by personal efforts. Therefore, it is not to suggest that BN(O) Hong Kongers are fundamentally apathetic, but it more reflects a cultural practice that is socially produced. Secondly, this paradox may reflect a narrow conception of civic responsibility where voting in democratic elections is taken as overriding importance. Thirdly, on a more practical side, Hong Kongers are newcomers. There are practical difficulties such as the unawareness of channels and know-how, and sometimes doors for</p>

	<p>participation are also not opened. <b>We consider enabling and empowering for actual civic participation in the community essential for successful integration. It is through actual involvement, emotionally and practically, in mutual help relationships, in community associations, community events, as well as collective actions that mutual learning takes place. Doors must be opened on both sides, but this has to be encouraged, helped, and developed. One possible starting point is to organize more mixed-ethnic group activities and mutual exchange events, for example for Hong Kong congregations to have regular joint services with local churches but without one replacing the other. All these require new efforts and mindset changes on both sides.</b></p>
<p><i>Findings of our research also reveal a paradox: high voting turnout and voting intention on the one hand, and low actual participation in community affairs on the other. We consider enabling and empowering for actual civic participation in the community essential for successful integration. Doors must be opened on both sides, but this has to be encouraged, helped, and developed.</i></p>	
	<p>4. We also concern that more young people disbelieve in the possibility of community working together to solve community problems. Furthermore, more young people felt lonely compared to other adult groups. As argued above, social production of personal reliance can be a factor, but there may be other hidden factors unexplored. In view of the fact that we have a relatively small sample of young Hong Kongers in this study, and it is not the purpose of this study to focus on a single age group, <b>we consider it necessary to look deeper into the challenges of social integration faced by young Hong Kongers in a separate study.</b> In the meantime, we attempt to suggest a possible</p>

	<p>explanation: There is a deep sense of frustrations among young Hong Kongers towards the establishment, government authorities and the political institutions of Hong Kong. In other words, mistrust and helplessness are learnt through previous experience and are manifest in young people's attitudes in the UK. <b>Young people should be helped to unlearn mistrust and helplessness in the UK, and this could be achieved with youth-focused services.</b></p>
<p><i>We also concern that more young people disbelieve in the possibility of community working together to solve community problems. We consider it necessary to look deeper into the challenges of social integration faced by young Hong Kongers in a separate study. Furthermore, more young people felt lonely compared to other adult groups. Young people should be helped to unlearn mistrust and helplessness in the UK, and this could be achieved with youth-focused services.</i></p>	
	<p>5. As far as support networks are concerned, basic social networks between neighbours do exist, but genuine and reliable support from the local community seems lacking. Majority (67.3%) relied on previous Hong Kong networks for confiding and financial aid. 18.1% had no confidant at all. <b>This challenge must be tackled for successful integration. We suggest that more fundings should be devoted for community organizing work with a specific aim to help Hong Kongers establish mutual support networks in the local communities. Cultural skills and knowledge beyond the provision of English language classes should be provided at the community level. Multicultural groups are to be encouraged in schools, churches and other community settings.</b></p>
<p><i>Hong Kongers lack genuine and reliable support from the local communities. This challenge must be tackled for successful integration. Cultural skills and knowledge beyond the provision of English language classes should be provided at the community level. Multicultural groups are to be encouraged in schools, churches and other community settings.</i></p>	

	<p>6. Majority of our respondents had not experienced discrimination or exclusion in the community, schools, and the workplace. We welcome this finding, and hope this is a symbol of success of the welcoming programmes. That said, however, we remain concerned about the 13.5% of Hong Kongers who had such experience, and we also concern about the hidden aspects of discriminations and exclusion. Sometimes, feeling powerless in a new environment where one self-defines as an alien may discourage being identified as a victim. We also concern about the finding that more women had experienced being discriminated than men. <b>While the British people generally extend their warm welcome and friendliness to Hong Kongers, the public should also be helped to appreciate that Hong Kongers also bring with them unique personal, economic and cultural strengths. Integration education should be provided not only to the newcomers, but also to the general public so as to foster a genuine multi-cultural community.</b></p>
<p><i>We concern about discrimination and exclusion, and we also concern about the hidden aspects of discrimination. While Hong Kongers felt warmth and friendliness, the public should also be helped to appreciate that Hong Kongers also bring unique personal, economic and cultural strengths. Integration education should be provided not only to the newcomers, but also to the general public so as to foster a genuine multi-cultural community.</i></p>	
	<p>7. Overall, <b>we propose to adopt a new perspective to look at Hong Kongers as active agency</b> and to mobilize meaningful engagements in the community. <b>More in-depth and proactive organization work at the community level is imperative</b> for developing genuine supportive networks. <b>Due attention must be given to</b></p>

	<p><b>those who ‘actively’ mistrust the community, especially the younger groups. The society as a whole also have to learn to receive Hong Kongers beyond the initial welcoming stage, while mutual learning between Hong Kongers and their British counterparts must be actively fostered.</b></p>
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<p><i>We propose to adopt a new perspective to look at Hong Kongers as active agency and to mobilize meaningful engagements in the community. The society as a whole also have to learn to receive Hong Kongers beyond the initial welcoming stage, while mutual learning between Hong Kongers and their British counterparts must be actively fostered.</i></p>	
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**Research team members:**

Sammy Chiu was former professor and adjunct professor respectively of the Hong Kong Baptist University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Kate Kwok was a town planner and has been actively engaging in supporting Hong Kongers in Britain.

Joy Lam is currently senior community organizer of the Welcome Hong Kongers Project. She was formerly a lecturer at the Hong Kong Community College.

Tai Shing Lee is currently working for the Good Neighbours Church England, and was the former director of the Hong Kong CSSA Alliance.

## Appendix A Framework

Dimension Indicators Levels	Civic participation	Trust, security and belonging	Social capital and social network
<b>National level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Knowledge about civic rights</li> <li>● Register as voters</li> <li>● Concern about social affairs</li> <li>● Intend to vote</li> <li>● Take action to vote</li> <li>● Participate in social and political activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trust the UK government</li> <li>● Believe in government policy</li> </ul>	
<b>Community level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Being seen as a member of the community</li> <li>● Passion about community improvements</li> <li>● Helping people in the community and being helped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Feel safe in the community</li> <li>● Feeling attached to the community</li> <li>● Trusting people in the community</li> <li>● Feeling the community as home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Availability of supportive network</li> <li>● Local community connectedness</li> <li>● Availability of intimate friends</li> </ul>
<b>Personal level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participate in community actions</li> <li>● Participate in local association</li> <li>● Help people in need</li> <li>● Volunteering</li> <li>●</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Experience of being discriminated/excluded</li> <li>● Trust towards people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Loneliness</li> <li>● Availability of help in personal needs</li> <li>● Personal connectedness</li> </ul>
<b>Participants' profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sex</li> <li>● Age</li> <li>● Education background</li> <li>● Employment</li> <li>● Residential regions</li> <li>● Duration of migration</li> <li>● Duration in the present region</li> </ul>		