**Moved** by Singh, **seconded** by \_\_\_ that the following statement be adopted:

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) acknowledges the previously adopted statement from SRA 19L on November 17, 2019, In Solidarity of Hong Kong Student Protesters;

**Whereas** The [National Security Law](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-52765838) (NSL) imposed upon Hong Kong by the Chinese government aims to constrain dissent, free speech and basic human rights in Hong Kong and [around the world](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/31/china-hong-kong-security-law-american-citizen-exiles) by threatening life imprisonment for vaguely defined charges such as “subversion” or “collusion with foreign forces,” even if the alleged crimes occur outside Hong Kong1,2.

**Whereas** on August 23rd, 2020, Chinese maritime police intercepted and seized a vessel with 12 Hong Kong youths aged 16-30, fleeing to Taiwan to [escape political persecution](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/3213/2020/en/) and to seek asylum3.

**Whereas** this seizure [likely violated](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/04/hong-kong-security-law-may-break-international-laws-china-human-rights-un) these Hong Kong youths’ basic human rights under the UN Declaration of Human Rights to leave their own country and to seek asylum from persecution elsewhere4.

**Whereas** for four months the [12 Hong Kongers](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/21/save-12-hk-youths-hong-kong-campaign-to-free-boat-detainees-goes-global) were detained without charge, [denied access](https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-hongkong-security/families-call-for-access-to-hong-kong-relatives-detained-in-china-idUKKBN26L0N8?edition-redirect=uk) to their families and only given access to attorneys from a list that was pre-approved by the Chinese government5,6.

**Whereas** the young Hong Kongers were tried in secret court, with foreign journalists and diplomats barred from attending, and were sentenced up to 3 years in prison, where they face a [high risk of torture and ill-treatment](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/12/hong-kong-youths-risk-torture-after-unfair-trial/)7**.**

**Whereas** the introduction of the National Security Law and the case of the 12 Hong Kong youths highlight the accelerating deterioration of [human rights in China](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/09/global-call-international-human-rights-monitoring-mechanisms-china?fbclid=IwAR31BO48rfrgiESJRRW-mfGgBJ8jrtWMUzK_rdq9W357JmOnMYFq2Di7G9Y), the continued violation of Hong Kong’s treaty-guaranteed autonomy, and the worsening [crackdown on pro-democracy activists](https://globalnews.ca/news/7557559/hong-kong-50-activists-arrested/) in Hong Kong8,9.

**Whereas** the National Security Law, which [unilaterally asserts jurisdiction over Canada](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/hong-kong-national-security-law-10-things-you-need-to-know/), and the maltreatment of the 12 Hong Kong youths, which serves to intimidate others from similarly exercising their basic human rights to freedom of speech or asylum, are both directly threatening and imperiling McMaster students from freely expressing their political beliefs or engaging in research deemed politically sensitive by the Chinese government, particularly those with family or research relations in Hong Kong10.

**Whereas** a precedent has been set by Canadian student unions, such as the [Student’s Society of McGill University](https://ssmu.ca/blog/2020/11/statement-to-save12hkyouths/), to stand alongside fellow students and community members around the world by condemning human rights violations, unlawful police violence, and authoritarianism, including in Hong Kong and China11.

**Whereas** the dire situation in Hong Kong and the [extraterritorial overreach of the NSL](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/hong-kong-national-security-law-10-things-you-need-to-know/) is of grave concern to not only McMaster students of Hong Kong origin or heritage, but also to prospective McMaster students from Hong Kong, to McMaster students who do research in or related to Hong Kong, and to all members of the McMaster community who wish to speak freely about human rights10.

**Whereas** the international community has reacted to the events in Hong Kong with condemnation, including in a [cross-party statement](https://www.hongkongwatch.org/all-posts/2020/11/16/24-canadian-parliamentarians-call-on-the-foreign-affairs-minister-to-urge-china-to-return-the-12-hong-kong-youths-detained-for-over-eighty-days-in-shenzhen) from 25 Canadian MPs, statements from the [Canadian foreign minister](https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/foreign-ministers-statement-hong-kong-arrests-canada-1.5867774), as well as measures from countries [including Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/11/canada-announces-immigration-measures-supporting-hong-kong-residents-and-canadians-in-hong-kong.html) to support refugees and immigrants from Hong Kong12-14.

**Be it resolved that:**

The SRA reaffirms the previously adopted statement from SRA 20L on November 17, 2019, In Solidarity of Hong Kong Student Protesters.

**Be it resolved that:**

The Student Representative Assembly (SRA) supports and stands in solidarity with students and activists in Hong Kong who face police violence and political persecution for speaking up for human rights and democracy, especially those who are trying to seek refuge in other countries.

**Be it resolved that:**

The SRA stands in solidarity with McMaster students of Hong Kong or Chinese origin or heritage who are being actively harmed or threatened by the National Security Law and other human rights abuses perpetrated by the Chinese government.

**Be it resolved that:**

The SRA affirms its commitment to supporting current and prospective students who are refugees or are otherwise seeking safety in Canada, including those from Hong Kong.

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