From the early summer to the bitter winter of 2019, Hongkongers fought an unprecedented battle, reigniting the struggle against tyranny, which we called ‘the revolution of our times’.

After the Umbrella Movement, Hongkongers witnessed a low in the democratic movement, the vicious onslaught on Hong Kong’s democracy and rule of law by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the disqualification of democratically elected legislators, the political-economic regime continues to suppress Hongkongers.

In the year of 2019, Hongkongers learned to unite peaceful and militant protesters, learned to respect various strategies, and constantly raising the bar for social movement progressiveness. However, this is not indiscriminate compliance as we realized that unity is the only way to confront the CPC. We are united to defend the dignity and freedom of Hong Kong people, reclaiming the rights of the people from the regime and its beneficiaries.

The CPC under Xi Jinping has responded ruthlessly to the people of Hong Kong. The Hong Kong communist regime suppressed defiant Hongkongers with a heavily armed police force. Since June 2019, police violence and abuses of power are rampant in Hong Kong, revealing the repressive nature of CPC’s rule over Hongkongers.

Up to the present, countless youth sacrificed their lives for the movement, also there are many unnamed martyrs. A lot of brave activists were forced into exile. All of which are the evil consequences of CPC’s rule.

Not only have Hongkongers’ means of struggling evolved, but our minds have also been armed. In the revolution of our times, the nature of all social movements has changed. Hongkongers should never endure police violence, and must not allow the 'dirty-cops' to become a privileged class, being exempt from legal sanction throughout their lifetimes.

The spirit of ‘the revolution of our times’ has embedded in the daily lives of Hongkongers. Multiple battlefronts have been developed, the prototype of a universal resistance has been formed:
- in the economic front, the resistance relies upon the ‘yellow economic circle’;
- in the community front, there are communal politics;
- in the international front, there are overseas lobbying and monitoring;
- on the streets, there are resistances as well as Lennon walls.

Naturally, the battlefront at workplaces counts on resistance from trade unions. To fight against totalitarianism, the people of Hong Kong have re-examined society relations with an aim to liberate every battlefront and generate strengths for future struggles.
In the revolution of our times, Hongkongers had experienced many ‘Three strikes’ and failed to achieve total success at last. After the siege of the Legislative Council in June, a massive strike of 350,000 people in August 5 and the subsequent strike rallies, Hongkongers eventually realized that the establishment of trade unions for long-term struggles is necessary.

The new waves of trade unions organizing have changed the ecosystem of the Hong Kong trade union movement. It is a ‘labour subject’ derived from the ‘political subject’ in the movement. The battlefront against totalitarian violence has given birth to the labour subject which has become a new force in the democratic movement. It not only actively intervenes in the current political struggle but also combines various demands of the workers and responds to tyranny with industrial actions.

At the same time, the existing trade union movement also converges with the emerging forces, ‘liberating’ the workplaces of various industries and fighting against the vested interests in all sectors. The health care workers’ strike is the best example, showing that trade unions are taking up the baton of social struggles.

In the face of the pandemic, grassroots in Hong Kong are facing unprecedented challenges. Despite all sectors from Hong Kong fight in solidarity against the pandemic, an unjust regime is dragging Hongkongers ever closer to a financial slush. With all industries in depression and workers unemployed, the ‘Anti-epidemic Fund’ proposed by the government, not only ignores the needs of unemployed workers, but also stubbornly ignores the existence of freelance and irregular workers. All walks of life have been caught in an ice age that is resulted from a man-made disaster.

Hong Kong workers are deprived of the right to collective bargaining and protection in the right to strike is also inadequate. Under the current economic adversities, workers are vulnerable to exploitation by consortiums and the regime. While the government issued an unprecedented ‘review-free’ subsidy to consortiums, the unemployed wage-earners can only receive CSSA under strict scrutiny.

A social movement and the subsequent pandemic have fully demonstrated that this is not a government of the Hong Kong people.

Now, the CPC cannot even wait until the end of the pandemic to settle scores with Hongkongers. From frontline comrades to peaceful protestors, the CPC ensures that no one is missed out in this new wave of political persecution. The Liaison Office and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office intervened into the operation of the Hong Kong Legislative Council, misappropriating the law for their own ends and cooking up criminal charges against the pro-democrat legislators. Furthermore, they suddenly announced that the two Offices were not regulated by Article 22 of the Basic Law, single-handedly tearing down the false facade of ‘one country, two systems’.

The Hong Kong government has been fighting against the pandemic half-heartedly. In full collaboration with Beijing, the Hong Kong government does not even bother with the window-dressing work of ‘one country, two systems’. Hong Kong people who have gone through the anti-tyranny movement in 2019 would never accept the CPC’s brutality.

This year, in the Labour Day action, we reiterate the importance of the trade union front. This is one of the paths that must be taken. Facing the CPC’s belligerence, we must be prepared to respond to tyranny with more progressive means. We call on Hong Kong people to join trade unions, establish trade unions, to prepare thoroughly for future battles.
Five Demands, not one less!

Fight for justice, struggle against pandemic and tyranny!

Trade unions front, the way to struggles!

Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions 29/4/2020

Signers (union):

Personal and Community Service Workers General Union
The Chinese University of Hong Kong Employees General Union
Union of Hong Kong Dockers
The Confederation of Tertiary Institutes Staff Unions
Construction Site Workers General Union
Hospital Authority Workers General Union
Retail, Commerce and Clothing Industries General Union
Insurance & Finance Practitioners Solidarity Sector
Hong Kong School Non-Teaching Staff Union
Hong Kong Cabin Crew Federation
Hong Kong Dumper Truck Drivers Association
Concrete Industry Workers Union
Federation of Hong Kong Transport Worker Organizations
Catering and Hotels Industries Employees General Union
Bartenders & Mixologists Union of Hong Kong
Railway Power
Railway Power
Hong Kong Information Technology Workers' Union Official Channel
Hong Kong Information Technology Workers' Union
Union of Hong Kong Occupational Therapists
Hong Kong Manufacturing Industry Society
Preparatory Committee of Property Management Union
Hong Kong Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Industries Employees General Union
Government Non-Civil Service Staff General Union
Hong Kong White Collar (Administration and Clerical) Connect Union
Staff Association of The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
The General Union of Hong Kong Speech Therapists
HK Trading, Merchandising and Purchasing
Hong Kong Early Childhood Educators' Union
Hospital Authority Employees Alliance (HAEA)
Union of the Hong Kong Professional Optometrists
World First Bus Company Staff Union
Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union
Staff Union of ELCHK – Social Service
Hong Kong Freelancer Union Preparatory Committee
Hong Kong Construction and Engineering Employees General Union
Hong Kong Sheng Kui Hui Welfare Council Workers Trade Union
Hong Kong Testing and Certification Union
Hong Kong Public Relations and Communications Professional Union
Hong Kong Tourism Industry Innovation General Union
Hong Kong Alliance of Accounting Professionals
Hong Kong Insurance Union
Hong Kong Hotel Employees Union
Retail Frontline Staff Union Preparatory Committee
Tung Wah Social Movement Concern Group
Hong Kong Real Estate Agents Rights and Benefits General Union
Hong Kong Event Professionals Union
Hong Kong Company Secretarial Professional Association Preparatory Committee
Hong Kong Marketing and Sales Professionals Union
Hong Kong Long Christian Service Social Policy Staff Concern Group
Hong Kong Music Industry Union
Hong Kong Real Estate Agents Rights and Benefits General Union
Hong Kong Event Professionals Union
Organizing Committee of Hong Kong Cultural Creativity And Craft Employees Union
Hong Kong Teaching and Research Support Staff Union Hong Kong Union of Designers
Hong Kong Educators Alliance
Citybus Limited Employees Union
Preparatory Committee of Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service Employees Association
Hong Kong Human Resources Employees Union
Cleaning Service Industry Workers Union
Hong Kong Buildings Management and Security Workers General Union
Coach Drivers Union
Hong Kong Baptist University Faculty and Staff Union
Union of Hong Kong Post Office Employees
Bar Bending Industry Workers Solidarity Union

Signers (District councilors):

Yau Hon Pong          Suzanne Wu Sui Shan          Sin Chung Kai
Man Nim Chi            Max Wu                   Wan Chi Chung
Valerie Wong Cheuk Nga Gary Fan Kwok Wai       Ho Cheuk Hin Isaac
Wong Chun Yeung        Henry Chun              Fung Kwan On
Szeto Pok-Man          Ramon Yuen Hoi Man       Napo Wong Weng Chi
Janet Ng Yuet Lan      Ray Au Chun Wah        Wong Kai Ming, Bill
Chu Kong Wai, Derek    Au Chun Ho              Clarisse Yeung
Ho Wai Lun             Thomas Hong             Yip Wing
Stanley Ho Wai Hong    Cheung Wai Chiu         Yip Kam Lung Sam
Lui Man Kwong          Clara Cheung             Liao Pak Hong Ricardo
Gary Li Wing Choi      Leung Li                 Yan Pui Lam Lance
Li Chi Wang            Zoe Leung               Pui Chi Lap James
Lee Kwok Kuen          Leung Kam Wai           Chiu Yan Loy
Rayman Chow Wai Hung   Mok Kin Shing           Lau Yung Wai Ken
Eddie Chow Kam Ho      Hui Kei Cheung          Choy Chak Hung
Lam Siu Chung, Frankie Hui Kam Shing           Cheng Chung Man
Ben Lam Siu Pan        Kwok Man Ho             Cheng Chi Kin
Lam Ming Yat           Kwok Chi Chung          Lai Ming Chak, Jacky
Lam Ming Yan           Kwok Sau Yin            Lo Chun Yu, Cary
Lam Kin Cheung         Chan Wai Lit             Chung Kam Lun, Ben
Lam Sek Tim            Chan Wai K               Hon Chun Yin, Nicholas
Hung Chun Hin Hilson   Louis Ma                Susi Law
Wu Chi Kin             Mak Tak Ching

The organizations belonging to the International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggle

National inter professional labour organizations

→ Central Sindical e Popular Conlutas (CSP-Conlutas) - Brésil.
→ Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT) - Etat espagnol.
→ Union syndicale Solidaires (Solidaires) - France.
Confederazione Unitaria di Base (CUB) - Italie.
Confédération Générale du Travail du Burkina (CGT-B) - Burkina.
Confederation of Indonesia People’s Movement (KPRI) - Indonésie.
Confederación Intersindical (Intersindical) - Etat espagnol.
Confédération Générale Autonome des Travailleurs en Algérie (CGATA) - Algérie.
Batay Ouvriye - Haïti.
Unione Sindacale Italiana (USI) - Italie.
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs - Solidarité Ouvrière (CNT SO) - France.
Sindicato de Comisiones de Base (CO.BAS) - Etat espagnol.
Organisation Générale Indépendante des Travailleurs et Travailleuses d’Haïti (OGTHI) - Haïti.
Sindacato Intercategoriale Cobas (SI COBAS) - Italie.
Confédération Nationale du Travail (CNT-f) - France.
Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya (IAC) - Catalogne.
Union Générale des Travailleurs Sahraouis (UGTSARIO) - Sahara occidental.
Ezker Sindikalaren Konbergentzia (ESK) - Pays basque.
Confédération Nationale de Travailleurs du Sénégal Forces du Changement (CNTS/FC) – Sénégal
Sindicato Autorganizzato Lavorator COBAS (SIAL-COBAS) - Italie.
General Federation of Independent Unions (GFIU) - Palestine.
Confederación de la Clase Trabajadora (CCT) - Paraguay.
Red Solidaria de Trabajadores - Pérou
Union Syndicale Progressiste des Travailleurs du Niger (USPT) - Niger.
Union Nationale des Syndicats Autonomes du Sénégal (UNSAS) - Sénégal.
Unión Nacional para la Defensa de la Clase Trabajadora (UNT) - El Salvador.
Solidaridad Obrera (SO) - Etat espagnol.
Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB) - Grande-Bretagne.
Ogólnopolski Związek Zawodowy Inicjatywa Pracownicza (OZZ IP) - Pologne.
Centrale Démocratique des Travailleurs de Martinique (CDMT) – Martinique.
Associazione Diritti Lavoratori Cobas (ADL COBAS) – Italie
Pakistan Labour Federation (PLF) – Pakistan

National professional labour organizations

National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT/TUC) - Grande-Bretagne.
Centrale Nationale des Employés – Confédération Syndicale Chrétienne (CNE/CSC) - Belgique.
Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del Sistema Agroalimentario (SINALTRAINAL/CUT) - Colombie.
Trade Union in Ethnodata - Trade Union of Employees in the Outsourcing Companies in the financial sector - Grèce.
Syndicat national des travailleurs des services de la santé humaine (SYNTRASEH) - Bénin
Sindicato dos Trabalhadores da Fiocruz (ASFOC-SN) - Brésil.
Organizzazione Sindicati Autonomi e di Base Ferroviarie (ORSF Ferroviarie) - Italie.
Union Nationale des Normaliens d’Haiti (UNNOH) - Haïti.
Confederación Unitaria di Base Scuola Università Ricerca (CUB SUR) - Italie.
Coordinamento Autorganizzato Trasporti (CAT) - Italie.
Syndicat des travailleurs du rail – Centrale Démocratique des Travailleurs du Mali (SYTRAIL/CDTM) – Mali.
Gıda Sanayii İşçileri Sendikası - Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu (GIDA-IŞ/DISK) – Turquie.
Syndicat National des Travailleurs du Petit Train Bleu/SA (SNTPTB) - Sénégal.
Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Administrativos de la Caja de Seguro Social (ANFACSS) – Panama.
Palestinian Postal Service Workers Union (PPSWU) - Palestine.
Union Syndicale Etudiante (USE) - Belgique.
Sindicato dos Trabalhadores de Call Center (STCC) - Portugal.
Sindicato Unitario de Trabajadores Petroleros (Sinutapatelgas) - Venezuela.
Alianza de Trabajadores de la Salud y Empleados Publicos - Mexique.
Canadian Union of Postal Workers / Syndicat des travailleurs et travailleuses des postes (CUPW-STTP) – Canada.
Syndicat Autonome des Postiers (SAP) - Suisse.
Fédération nacional de trabajadores de la educación (SUTE-Chili) - Chili.
Plateforme Nationale des organisations professionnelles du secteur public - Côte d'Ivoire.
Fédération nationale des ouvriers et collectivités locales - Union Marocaine du Travail (UMT-Collectivités locales) - Maroc.
Centrale Générale des Services Publics FGTB, Cheminots (CGSP/FGTB Cheminots) - Belgique.
Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) - Botswana.
Organisation Démocratique du Rail-Organisation Démocratique du Travail (ODR/ODT) – Maroc.
Federação Nacional dos Metroviários (FENAMETRO) - Brésil.
Namibia Football Players Union (NAFPU) – Namibie.
Palestinian Electricians' Trade Union (PETU) – Palestine.
Missão Publica Organizada – Portugal.

Local labour organizations

Trades Union Congress, Liverpool (TUC Liverpool) - Angleterre.
Sindicato Territoriale Autorganizzato, Brescia (ORMA Brescia) - Italie.
Fédération syndicale SUD Service public, canton de Vaud (SUD Vaud) - Suisse
Sindicato Unitario de Catalunya (SU Metro) - Catalogne.
Türkiye DERİ-İŞ Sendikasi, Tuzla et Izmir (DERİ-İŞ Tuzla et Izmir) - Turquie.
L’autre syndicat, canton de Vaud (L’autre syndicat) - Suisse
Centrale Générale des Services Publics FGTB, Ville de Bruxelles (CGSP/FGTB Bruxelles) – Belgique.
Arbeitskreis Internationalismus IG Metall, Berlin (IG Metall Berlin) - Allemagne
Sindicato Unificado de Trabajadores de la Educación de Buenos Aires, Bahia Blanca (SUTEBA/CTA de los trabajadores Bahia Blanca) - Argentine
Sindicato del Petróleo y Gas Privado del Chubut/CGT - Argentine.
UCU University and College Union, University of Liverpool (UCU Liverpool) - Angleterre.
Sindicato di base Pavia (SDB Pavia) - Italie.
United Auto Workers local 551 Ford Chicago (UAW Ford Chicago) – Etats-unis.
Sindicato Uno Prodinsa, Maipú – Chili.
Asociación Gremial de Trabajadores del Subterráneo y Premetro, Buenos Aires (SUBTE/CTA) – Argentine.

International labour organizations

Industrial Workers of the World - International Solidarity Commission (IWW).

Trends, tendancies or labour networks

Transnationals Information Exchange Germany (TIE Germany) - Allemagne.
Emancipation tendance intersyndicale (Emancipation) - France.
Globalization Monitor (GM) - Hong Kong.
Courant Syndicaliste Révolutionnaire (CSR) - France.
Fronte di lotta No Austerity - Italie.
Solidarité Socialiste avec les Travailleurs en Iran (SSTI) - France.
Basis Initiative Solidarität (BASO) - Allemagne.
LabourNet Germany - Allemagne.
Resistenza Operaia - operai Fiat-Irisbus - Italie.
Workers Solidarity Action Network (WSAN) - Etats-Unis.
United Voices of the World (UVW) - Grande-Bretagne.
Unidos pra Lutar - Brésil.
Corriente Político Social Sindical 1º de Mayo de Buenos Aires – Argentine.
Coordinamento Nazionale Unitario Pensionati di oggi e di domani (CONUP) – Italie.
National Association of Human Rights Defenders – Palestine.
Red de Trabajadores – Argentine.