

Press Release on Jasper Tsang's Racist Comments

The [Refugee Union](#) is a registered Society dedicated to promoting the rights and defend the interest of asylum seekers and refugees in Hong Kong. We are greatly concerned by the comments attributed to the Legislative Council President, Hon. Jasper Tsang.

We condemn said sentiments in the strongest possible terms. The Refugee Union is outraged by the racist comments which we find highly discriminatory and deeply offensive.

It's shameful that such a high ranking senior member of the Hong Kong Government would make such degrading comments in light of what happened. We all know what Ebola is and the death and disaster caused to affected African countries. It is therefore most hypocritical and misleading for a public officer of Mr. Tsang's caliber to make such offensive remarks in the wake of a deadly tragedy.

It is still flesh in our minds that, not many years ago, Hong Kong suffered from the dreadful SARS epidemic in which over 200 people lost their lives. Notwithstanding that, Hong Kong is Asia's great city fortunately endowed with resources including one of the best health care system in the world. Despite this, it did not stop the disease from wreaking havoc on the lives of many residents.

The suffering and deaths SARS brought to the people of Hong Kong will never be forgotten. We beg to ask was it the fault of the people of Hong Kong that such a calamity would befall the city? Conversely, was it the fault of West African states to suffer the Ebola crisis? How would Mr. Tsang feel if citizens from Liberia and Sierra Leone made such derogatory remarks about SARS in such a casual manner?

It is well known that the Government Mr. Tsang serves segregates, oppresses and humiliates refugees through a inhuman border control mechanism, thinly disguised as an international asylum system. Refugees are denied the right to work and cannot earn a living to support ourselves, yet the assistance we are offered is dramatically below the poverty line. The welfare assistance is grossly inadequate and unrealistic.

When we hear such racist comments coming from the leadership of this affluent and unwelcoming city, we sadly realize that **RACISM** is entrenched in the local culture and government. The current refugee policy on protection and assistance is nothing but a border control measure that is meant to punish, humiliate, manipulate and ostracize unwanted foreigners from a city that only opens its gates to the rich.

It is no wonder that the Immigration Department has been used as tool to inflict maximum damage to unwanted foreigners through a [Unified Screening Mechanism](#) (USM) that cannot meet even the lowest standards of fairness. The Refugee Union emphatically protest that the USM is a FAKE asylum system.

The Refugee Union hereby demands that the Hon. Jasper Tsang retract his racist and discriminatory comments through a public apology. We also urge the Hong Kong Government to review the current refugee system with a view to granting credible protection and affording longtime refugees the right to work thereby restoring our human dignity and respect.

Refugee Union

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