



Human Rights Seminar Series

Hong Kong: Children's Right to Asylum

Kay McArdle, CEO and Vivian Cheung, Legal Case Manager
PathFinders Limited, Hong Kong

Wednesday, 7 November 2018, 13:00 – 14:00
723, 7/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower
Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong

PathFinders Limited is a Hong Kong-registered charity that works to ensure that the most vulnerable children born in Hong Kong, and their migrant mothers (usually from Indonesia and the Philippines), are respected and protected.

PathFinders' mothers and children often apply for asylum by reason that they are unable to return to their home countries where the fact that the child is born out of wedlock is viewed upon negatively and can bring about ostracization, discrimination, physical harm or even death in certain cases. The children are in a particularly unique situation as they are typically HK born, are ethnic minorities of dual-heritage, born out of wedlock and have never lived in or been to the home country of either biological parent.

This Seminar explores PathFinders' experience in how these asylum seeking children are treated in the asylum process in HK. The discussion will focus on the various provisions in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), including the best interests of the child principle, right to timely birth registration, education and health.

Kay McArdle, CEO, PathFinders Limited, Hong Kong, joined PathFinders as its first CEO in October 2013. PathFinders is a Hong Kong-charity that works to fill acute public healthcare, welfare, housing, identity documentation and access to justice gaps. It does this by providing humanitarian assistance (food, clothing, shelter), counselling, education, healthcare and legal services to some of Hong Kong's most vulnerable babies, children and their migrant mothers. Kay is responsible for PathFinders' strategic development with particular focus on government, consular, academic and inter-agency relations, and PathFinders' law and policy work. A Hong Kong- and UK-qualified lawyer and mediator by background, Kay previously worked at Mayer Brown, Goldman Sachs and Msons.

Vivian Cheung, Legal Case Manager, PathFinders Limited, Hong Kong is a Hong Kong-qualified lawyer committed to empowering the disadvantaged and vulnerable to protect and advocate for their rights. Before PathFinders, Vivian was the Legal Officer at Justice Centre Hong Kong providing legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees. Vivian has a Master of Laws in Human Rights Law from University College London.

