Fundamental rights and freedoms as well as compliance with international human rights treaties are key principles supporting the ‘One Country Two Systems’ framework and enshrined in the Joint Declaration concluded by the People’s Republic of China and the United Kingdom in 1984. Article 39 of the Basic Law provides for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and applicable International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions. The UN Human Rights Council, the ILO, and other international bodies have noted major gaps in Hong Kong’s compliance with these international obligations.

This seminar will bring together international experts, academics, and local human rights and civil society organisations to discuss the unprecedented challenges to fundamental freedoms that Hong Kong has faced since the SAR Government proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation. Participants will also contribute to the development of related recommendations and submissions.

Programme

9:00 - 9:15  Welcoming Remarks and Introduction (Human Rights Hub, the University of Hong Kong)
9:15 - 11:15  Panel discussion - State of play of International Human Rights Treaties and the ICCPR in Hong Kong
11:15 - 11:30  Coffee break
11:30 - 12:30  Round-table discussion with the local human rights community
12:30 - 13:30  Conclusion and submission

International Speakers

Champa Patel
Head of the Asia-Pacific Programme at Chatham House, Honorary Professor at the University of Nottingham, member of the editorial board of Human Rights Quarterly, ex-research and campaign director of Amnesty International (UK)

Boram Jang
Legal Adviser of the International Commission of Jurists in Bangkok, ex-Deputy Secretary-General (UN Representative) at MINBYUN-Lawyers in Korea and researcher of the International Organization for Migration

Please register at https://qrgo.page.link/vejHe or email Lydia Choi at lwychoi@hku.hk for inquiries.