

Refugees in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is home to around 7,000 refugees and asylum seekers who have witnessed first-hand the horrors of war, genocide, torture, and other unthinkable acts of violence. Among them are single mothers and unaccompanied children. Many are traumatized, having had their lives destroyed. They have little hope of returning home without the serious risk of their human rights being violated. Some may even face torture if they return.

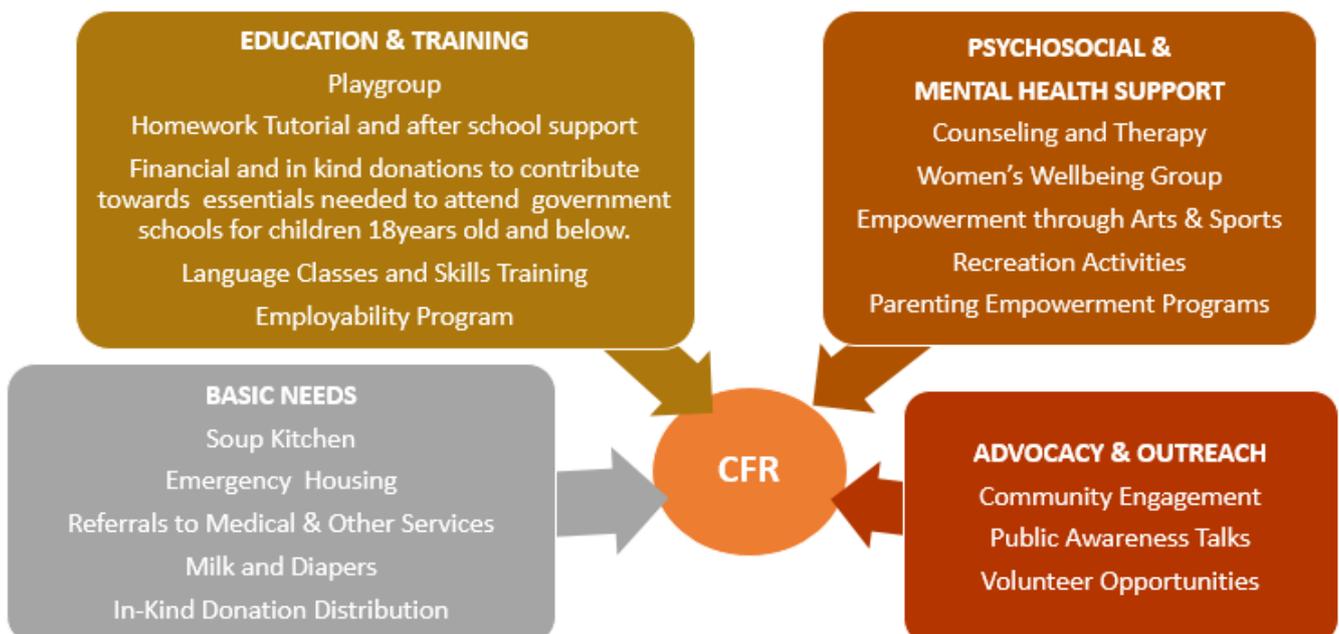
Challenges faced by Refugees

- Inadequate access to food, shelter, and other basic needs
- No right to work in Hong Kong
- Limited access to medical care
- Barriers to access education
- Lack of access to mental health support
- Discrimination and social exclusion

Center for Refugees

For the past 30 years, Christian Action has sought the well-being of refugees in Hong Kong. By 1997, we had served over 200,000 Vietnamese refugees. Since 2004, we have been the only drop-in service centre for refugees in Hong Kong. The Centre for Refugees fills an important gap in humanitarian services by providing emergency shelter, food, education, counseling and community support to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

What we do:



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Centre for Refugees is the only drop-in community center in Hong Kong. We try to fill the gaps and support refugees in their daily lives wherever we can. As a non legal service entity, we rely hugely on pro bono legal support. We would like to enlarge this platform to better serve the refugee community in their legal needs.

We need help in the following areas:



1. Case Work Support

- **Hotline:** provide legal advice to CFR staff if any questions or issues regarding legal, welfare or medical access arise
- **Visa applications:** assist or review completion of forms and supporting statements for applications for sponsored visas, family reunification and resettlement visas
- **Fight discrimination:** backup clients in different daily situations like opening bank accounts or rental issues to help them avoid and overcome discriminatory treatment
- **Employability program:** submit a request for permission to work or renewal of an existing permission to work for recognized refugees
- **24h Emergency support:** provide emergency legal support for clients in pressing situations like being stuck at the airport or imprisonment

2. Operational Needs

- **Legal forms:** review forms of our organization such as code of conduct, child safeguarding form, client consent and referral forms and MOUs with other NGOs.
- **Legal training:** provide CFR's staff legal training in specific areas for example tenant legal rights so the Centre's social workers can better assist their clients.

Volunteers are a core component of our center and we welcome and appreciate every additional help we can get!

For more information, please call us at 2723 6626 or contact Anina Zimmermann at anina.zimmermann@christian-action.org.hk.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. Education

- **Homework Support Group**

Volunteers help a group of primary & secondary school students with refugee or asylum backgrounds with their school work. Most of them need support in Cantonese, English, Mathematics and General Studies. Another important aspect of the homework group is not just helping them with arithmetic, reading, dictation etc. but also in building their confidence. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers who are able to give a commitment on a weekly basis to get out the most benefit for the kids.



Activity date & time

Saturday 10.30am-12.00pm

For more information

please contact Jonnet Bernal at jonnet.bernal@christian-action.org.hk / 3176 6256.

- **Beginner/Pre-Intermediate English class**

The aim of this program is to provide opportunities for students to develop the English language and coping skills which help them in their daily life as well as to navigate the asylum process in Hong Kong and to integrate when they are resettled in another country. The beneficiaries are women and men above 18 years with refugee or asylum background. The lessons are led by several volunteers with diverse backgrounds such as accountants, constants, teachers etc. Besides teaching, all they need sometimes are some words of encouragement and for them to believe in their abilities to tackle something challenging to them.



Therefore, we are looking for volunteers who are able to give a commitment on a weekly basis to get out the most benefit for them.

Activity date & time

Both classes are on Saturday at 12.00-1.45pm in separate rooms.

For more information

please contact Jonnet Bernal at jonnet.bernal@christian-action.org.hk / 3176 6256.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

2. Food program

Our food program at Christian Action's Chungking Mansions Service Center is designed to help protection claimants – refugees, asylum seekers, and torture claimants – supplement the meager food assistance they receive from the government by providing hot, freshly prepared and nutritious meals served at our center.

- **Cook!** You and a small group of friends (5 maximum due to space limitations) are welcome to cook and serve a meal at the center. Meal times are at 12pm and 5pm weekdays and 11am on Saturdays. You may either prepare the meal at home and bring it in to serve, or come and prep in our kitchen prior to meal time. Given the dietary restrictions of our client community, we only serve chicken, fish, or vegetarian meals. All meats served should be halal.
- **Serve!** If cooking isn't your thing, you can also come in and serve a meal with a member of the Christian Action team. It's a nice way to get to know our community and us.
- **Sponsor!** \$1,600 a day can provide 100 meals for refugees. This will buy all of the ingredients for the meals, as well as cover the cost of preparation.

For more information

please contact Jonnet Bernal at jonnet.bernal@christian-action.org.hk / 3176 6256.



3. Organize Leisure Activities for kids, parents, families, singles

Organize a fun event for our beneficiaries and give them a chance to see Hong Kong in a different light. Some examples are: Swimming, gardening, cooking & baking, farming, doing handicrafts, hiking, beach or trail clean up. Guess you are even more creative and come up with some good ideas ;)

For more information

please contact Jonnet Bernal at jonnet.bernal@christian-action.org.hk / 3176 6256.