



*For immediate release*

## Press Release

### **HKFYG Youth Research Centre announces latest “Youth Value Indicators” survey results**

**Revealing a rebound in youth confidence and interest  
in opportunities beyond Hong Kong, despite declining  
engagement with social, national and global issues**

The Youth Research Centre of The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) today (17 February) released findings from its latest “Youth Value Indicators 2023” survey. The study, which gathered the perspectives from 522 respondents aged 15 to 39, revealed **increased youth confidence and aspirations to pursue opportunities in the Mainland and elsewhere in the world**. However, it also highlighted a **concerning decline in social participation and awareness of national and global issues**.

The survey was conducted from 13 November to 8 December 2023 using random sampling through telephone interviews. Respondents were asked a range of questions about personal values, work, education, politics and society. This marks the 21st edition of the “Youth Value Indicators” survey since its inception in 1997, as part of the HKFYG’s effort to monitor and analyse local youth trends.

#### **Increased self-confidence and pursuit of opportunities**

Compared to previous surveys, respondents showed **growing confidence in self-abilities, particularly biliteracy, trilingualism and creativity**. Confidence levels in English and putonghua increased, reaching 61.2% and 57.7%, respectively. Moreover, 60.7% considered themselves creative, demonstrating an upward trend since 2018.

Furthermore, **more young people expressed openness and willingness to explore opportunities beyond Hong Kong**. The percentage of those considering development in the Mainland increased from 29.0% in 2022 to 41.6% in 2023. Similarly, that of those considering working overseas increased from 62.5% to 71.1%.

Nevertheless, **a slight upward trend emerged in youth pessimism**. The proportion of young people reporting a negative outlook on life increased from 24.6% in 2020 to 32.6% in 2023. Meanwhile, the survey introduced the question, “You feel like no one can help you when in difficulty,” for the first time this year. Over one-third (33.6%) of respondents agreed with the statement, **underscoring the continued need for society-wide attention and support for youth mental health**.

## **Improved perception of society and political efficacy**

The survey also revealed a significant improvement in youth perception of society. Satisfaction with public safety increased substantially from 38.2% in 2019 to 66.4% in 2023, and **confidence in government integrity, from 22.0% in 2021 to 64.9% in 2023**. Notably, 57.9% of respondents expressed confidence in the rule of law.

Regarding political efficacy, 51.5% of respondents agreed that public opinion can influence policy; 51.2%, that voting is useful and effective; and 76.6%, that social policies concern them (up from 32.3%, 35.5% and 67.4% in 2021, respectively). In addition, 44.1% concurred that political parties can represent public opinion (up from 30.0% in 2022). Despite the positive trends, the survey identified room for improvement in youth confidence regarding political participation and policy influence.

## **Decreased awareness of national and global issues**

Notwithstanding, youth engagement reached record lows in charitable donations and organisational membership, while participation level in voluntary work remained low. Additionally, a decline in youth awareness of national and global issues was found. While young people cited growing knowledge of national history, from 48.8% in 2021 to 57.7% in 2023, **they also showed a declining interest in national development**, from 86.8% in 2017 to 64.1% in 2023. **A similar downward trend was observed in global awareness**, with the percentage of those expressing disinterest more than doubling from 18.3% in 2018 to 40.2% in 2023.

The HKFYG's Youth Research Centre interprets the findings as indicative of growing youth confidence and aspirations to seek opportunities outside Hong Kong. Enhanced political efficacy, improved social perception, increased social stability and continued investment in youth development by the government and other sectors are factors associated with this trend.

Nonetheless, the declining engagement with social, national and global issues suggests a shift towards personal development. Yet, youth social responsibility and civic engagement remain essential in the interest of sustainable social growth. The HKFYG therefore recommends continued stakeholder support for youth development initiatives, such that young people can further their growth and development while building more positive connections with society. It is through caring for their communities, engaging in public affairs and broadening their global horizons that they can maximise their social impact and prepare themselves for future challenges.

Since 1997, the HKFYG has conducted the “Youth Value Indicators” survey and published research findings to provide insights into youth trends in Hong Kong. Detailed trends, findings and analyses are available online for public access. For details, please visit [yrc.hkfyg.org.hk](http://yrc.hkfyg.org.hk).

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**About The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups**

The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) was founded in 1960 and is now the city's largest youth service organisation. For the past six decades, it has been committed to serving the youth of Hong Kong by providing a variety of services, activities and programmes, which have an annual attendance of nearly six million. We encourage youth to reach their fullest potential, and with community support, we now have over 90 service units. We also have 12 core services, which include the Youth S.P.O.Ts, M21 Multimedia Services, Employment Services, Youth at Risk Services, Counselling Services, Parenting Services, Leadership Training, Volunteer Services, Education Services, Creativity Education and Youth Exchange, Leisure, Cultural and Sports Services, and Research and Publications. Our aim is to motivate young people to grow into responsible and dutiful citizens and we now have over 250,000 registered volunteers and over 500,000 registered members. We believe that our motto **HKFYG • Here for You** reaffirms our commitment and dedication to the young people of Hong Kong. For more details, please visit [hkfyg.org.hk](http://hkfyg.org.hk)

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