

Support for the War against Japanese Aggression



Donation of ambulance to the National Red Cross Association of China jointly by The Chinese Women's Club and The Batavia Chinese Women's Association (1939)

During the Sino-Japanese War in mid-1930s, the women's organisations in Hong Kong joined forces to support the country in the fight against Japanese aggression. At that time, many female workers, students, teachers and women from other sectors took part in raising resources for the resistance movement. They were also involved in the delivery of the resources to the war zones in the Mainland to support the soldiers. The main coordinating organisation then was the Hong Kong Women's Society of Donations for Soldiers.

The Hong Kong Women's Society of Donations for Soldiers was founded in 1938. Its efforts were initially oriented towards the mission to save the country and provide relief during the national crisis. Between 1938 and 1941, it donated large bulks of cotton yarn as well as ambulances to the Red Cross Society of China, and supplied large quantities of cotton, medicated gauze, quilted coats and motorcycles to the delegations of Hong Kong Students Relief Society who were all set to return to the Mainland to serve the country. It donated drugs to the Shiqi Overseas Chinese Hospital and also made a \$200 monthly donation to provide relief to the injured. To raise funds for relief purposes, it organised a variety of functions, such as bazaars, charity balls, flower sales, etc. It also ran childcare centres in collaboration with four other leading women's organisations in Hong Kong.



Serving refugees of the war at Sha Tau Kok (1938)



Distributing winter clothing to wounded soldiers at Lai Chi Kok Hospital (1938)



Resumption of work after the war

Participation in District Affairs



Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association was one of the earliest women's groups. The photo shows Board Members of the First Term.

Women have always been a dynamic force in community work. Through their participation in different community services and activities, they broaden their own horizons whilst at the same time provide services to other women and groups in need in the community. They also play a role in promoting the rights and interests of those in need, advocating for social policy formulation and distribution of community resources.

To enhance the social network and mutual support amongst women in new public housing estates, the Government established "Yin Ngai" Societies in 1980 to provide a venue for women in the estates for their social interaction. Women have also engaged in community services by participating in the activities of district women organisations, non-governmental organisations and "Kai Fong" associations.

Women in Hong Kong have always been active in volunteer work. Among the 470,854 volunteers registered by the end of 2004, there were 279,873 females, accounting for 59% of the total.



Organisation of roof-top cafe



Women participating in community services

Political Participation

Women have been active in their participation in the public affairs of the HKSAR. By way of appointment or election, the number of women on the Legislative Council (LegCo), District Councils, Rural Committees and Heung Yee Kuk is growing steadily. In the LegCo election in 2004, 26 of the candidates were females and 11 of them were elected, accounting for 18.3% of the 60 seats of the LegCo. In the last election of the District Councils held in 2003 (term of the Councils between 2004 and 2007), 71 female candidates won the election. Together with the 19 appointed members, female District Councillors accounted for 17.9% of the total 502 elected and appointed seats of the District Councils.

The Government has also on advice of the Women's Commission set a 25% gender benchmark for the appointment of members to advisory and statutory bodies, i.e. at least 25% of the seats in any advisory and statutory body should be taken by female or male members.

Celebrating the Reunification of Hong Kong with the Mainland

In celebration for the reunification of Hong Kong with the Mainland, 81 local women's organisations jointly formed the Organising Committee of Hong Kong Women Celebrating the 1997 Reunification. Between 1996 and 1997, the Committee launched six large-scale and territory-wide celebratory events, including the National Day Variety Show and Tram Parade in 1996, and the Gala Party of Thousands to Celebrate the Handover, Seminar on Approaches to Implement the Basic Law, Photo Exhibition on Development of Women in Hong Kong and Gala Carnival Celebrating the Reunification in 1997.



Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Source: Mrs. Anison CHAN



Source: Donated by Hong Kong Federation of Women

In 2007, a wide range of events have been launched by different sectors to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. These include the "Colourful Lives of Women" series of events and the "Women of Hong Kong - A Century of Contribution and Development" exhibition organised by the Women's Commission and the "Hong Kong Harmonious Family Drive" organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Women, among others. The above events reflect the remarkable contribution of women's organisations to the political and social developments of Hong Kong, as well as their team spirit.



Ceremony to kick-start "Colourful Lives of Women" series of activities organised by the Women's Commission
Source: Women's Commission



A group photo of organisations participating in the filming of "Colourful Lives of Women" TV series
Source: Women's Commission