

**80% youngsters say the Extradition Law is unjust and
falters the Freedom of Speech and Rule of Law
98% youngsters participate in various civic actions**

The implementation of the Extradition law has raised huge social discontent and caused millions of protesters appearing on the streets. **Breakthrough** has very recently conducted a research about the views of youngsters on the implementation of the Extradition Law. Results show that 90% of youngsters disagree with the implementation due to the possible contravention of freedom of speech and judicial independence; As for the purpose of protest, 80% youngsters say that this bill is unjust and contrary to their personal values. Results also show that the strong participation of youngsters in protests rejecting the bill reveals that they are vision-oriented, rather than result-oriented, despite the sense of political inefficacy being commonly shared by youngsters ever since the Umbrella Movement.

The research was conducted from 12-15 June 2019. Participants were interviewed in Admiralty, around the area of the “anti-Extradition Law” assembly. It had polled 562 youngsters aged 10 to 29, out of which 44.9% were male while 55.1% were female with an average age of 20.9 years old, and 54.1% were full time students.

Major findings:

1. 80% youngsters protest for justice rather than being incited by others

The research result reveals 84.0% of the respondents join the protest against the bill due to the violation of justice and personal value. 73.5% of them hope to force the government to change. In contrast, only a few of them are present to accompany others (11.7%), or responded to media, KOL, politicians’ appeal (3.6%). For the reason of disagreeing with the implementation, 95.5% of the respondents say that the law damages freedom of speech and judicial independence. Hence, youngsters treasure Hong Kong’s core values, such as freedom of speech, rule of law, etc., and they are independent thinkers who are not incited by others easily.

2. 98% youngster participated in various kinds of social actions

57.3% of the respondents consider that citizens cannot do anything in affecting government decisions after the Umbrella Movement, which shows that the strong sense of political inefficacy

still lingers. Research results also show that other than participating in the said protests, respondents still keep an eye concerning social affairs in general. 97.5% of the respondents join different kinds of civic actions, for example, 61.9% of the respondents surf the internet for social issues, 52.6% of them read the news and information shared by others, while 26.7% of them participate in demonstration frequently. As such, youngsters are not that apathetic about social issues, they are aware of those issues and will show up if necessary.

The government has persuaded that the bill being beneficial to Hong Kong's rule of law, however, 90% youngsters view such implementation actually destroys Hong Kong's core values.

Breakthrough's Ministry and Research Department Manager, King Chan, comments that this research has fully demonstrated how determined the youngsters are to fight for freedom of speech, rule of law and justice. Although they are permissive to government's decisions, they stay true to their conscience and belief, continue to persist and convey the values that are right in their opinion. Contrary to public view in the past few years that youngsters have lost hope in current affairs and politics, this research has also showed that the youngsters have always been aware of social issues, and when the timing is right, they will rise and fight for justice.

Note:

1. In case of any discrepancy between the English version and the Chinese version, the Chinese version shall prevail
2. For details of research data, please refer to the link (Chinese version):
http://www.breakthrough.org.hk/ir/Research/67_ExtraditionLaw_2019/
3. Besides the quantitative results, we have also interviewed some participants of the assembly. Those interviews aimed to know more about why they disagree with the extradition law, how they view on social participation. It is hoped that such interviews could serve as an additional to the research results.