

何喜華先生

何喜華先生成長在富足的玉石商人世家。雖然年青時曾在父親的玉石廠當學徒，但他沒有依照父親的意思繼承家族生意，當時的他希望繼續進修並走進社會幫助有需要的人。父子之間的分歧使他選擇離家出走，過著自力更生半工半讀的生活。在這段艱難的時間，何先生親身感受到低下階層面對的困難、無奈以及社會的不公義。這些深刻的體會對他未來的社會工作有著重要的影響力。

在上世紀七零年代，何先生已經開始參與本地社會運動。他於 1981 年加入香港社區組織協會，主要的工作目標是維護社會低下階層人士的權益，包括協助觀塘及藍田木屋區居民爭取改善居住環境。何先生多年來曾協助水上新娘、新移民家庭、獨居長者、無證媽媽、露宿者及精神康復人士等邊緣社群，組織他們爭取權益。雖然部份活動並未得到社會的廣泛認同，例如香港市民擔憂新移民及港人內地子女爭取居港權會影響社會資源分配，不過何先生仍然努力不懈地為他們爭取應有的權益，並嘗試改變本地市民的想法。

何先生在香港社區組織協會工作三十一年，現為香港社區組織協會主任。雖然日常工作非常繁重，但何先生仍然積極參與本港重要的政策制定。例如曾擔任中央政策組非全職顧問、扶貧委員會委員、策略發展委員會委員。現時何先生亦出任關愛基金督導委員會非官方委員，以及香港人權聯委會主席。

何先生對本港社會多年來的貢獻，有目共睹。1997年，他獲美國《時代周刊》評為香港最有影響力的二十五位人士之一。1998年，何先生獲頒授銅紫荊星章，以嘉許他「竭誠為本港的老人、無家可歸者、內地來港定居人士等條件較差人士服務」。

主席先生，為表揚何先生多年來對貧困階層的關懷、對弱勢群體的熱心幫助以及對追求社會平等的熱誠，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予何喜華先生。

中文贊辭由張宇樂博士撰寫及宣讀

Mr Ho Hei-wah *BBS*

Mr Ho Hei-wah was born of an affluent family operating a jade merchandising business. Having worked as an apprentice at his father's jade factory when he was young, he did not inherit his family business as his father had wished, aspiring instead to pursue further education and help people in need. The disagreement with his father brought him away from home, leading him to a self-reliant, work-study life. During this difficult period, Mr Ho experienced hardship and helplessness faced by the underprivileged and the injustice within society, which in turn had significant impact on his social work thereafter.

Mr Ho has participated in local social movements since the 1970s. As early as 1981, he joined the Society for Community Organisation, which mainly engaged in defending the rights of the underprivileged in society, including helping residents of shanty towns in Kwun Tong and Lam Tin to fight for a better living environment. Over the years he has helped and mobilised various peripheral groups to defend their rights, such as "brides on fishermen's boats", new immigrant families, elderly people living alone, mothers without right of abode, homeless and mentally rehabilitated people. Some movements were not well recognised. For example, the fight for right of abode on behalf of new immigrants and Mainland-born children of Hong Kong people has sparked worries among Hong Kong citizens about the resource allocation of society. However, Mr Ho persisted in his endeavours to strive for the legitimate rights of peripheral groups and to change local people's mind.

With 31 years of working experience at the Society for Community Organisation, Mr Ho now serves as the director of the Society. Despite his heavy workload, he is actively involved in the formulation of important policies in Hong Kong. For instance, he has served as a part-time adviser to the Central Policy Unit, and a member of the Commission on Poverty and the Commission on Strategic Development. Currently, Mr Ho also serves as a non-official member of the Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund and Chairman of Hong Kong Human Rights Commission.

Mr Ho's contribution to Hong Kong society over the years is evident. In 1997, he was ranked by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 most influential people in Hong Kong. In 1998, he was awarded a Bronze Bauhinia Star, "in recognition of the service he has rendered to less privileged groups in Hong Kong, particularly the elderly, the homeless and recent arrivals from the Mainland".

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his care for the poor, his dedication to helping the underprivileged as well as his enthusiastic pursuit of social equality over the years, may I now present to you Mr Ho Hei-wah for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Chinese citation written and delivered by Dr Francis Cheung