



HKJA Press Freedom Index Survey 2020 - Journalist Survey

In order to accurately reflect the condition of press freedom in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) has formulated a “**Press Freedom Index**” by conducting an annual survey of the news industry and the general public. This enables people from all walks of life to defend press freedom through a thorough understanding of the latest situation. The journalist survey is critical to the formulation of the index. Please rest assured that all information provided will be kept strictly confidential and used for aggregate analysis only. Your answers will not be matched with your personal identity under any circumstances, and all information will be kept for six months at most and then destroyed after the survey is completed. Please kindly spare a few minutes to complete this survey, and return it to HKJA **on or before 31 March 2021** through **only ONE of the methods below** (to avoid duplication, please do not return the survey in different ways.) Thank you.

- Hand it to the contact person at your organization
- Email (hkja@hkja.org.hk),
- Fax to 2572 7329
- Mail or deliver in person to: 15A, Henfa Commercial Building, 348-350 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, HK

Note: Please black out the circle (●) or write down the answer where appropriate.

Q1 Please rate **the degree of press freedom in Hong Kong** from 0 to 10, with 10 meaning absolutely free, 0 meaning absolutely not free, and 5 _____ (0-10) ○ Don't know meaning half-and-half.

Q2 Which of the following do you think are the three major factors which would affect your assessment of **press freedom in Hong Kong**? (No more than three answers are allowed)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> HKSAR Government | <input type="radio"/> Central Government | <input type="radio"/> Business tycoons | <input type="radio"/> Media owners |
| <input type="radio"/> Structure of the media industry | <input type="radio"/> Self-censorship by the media | <input type="radio"/> Level of convenience for the news media to obtain information | |
| <input type="radio"/> Legal protections | <input type="radio"/> Personal safety of the journalists at work | <input type="radio"/> Monitoring effectiveness of news media | |
| <input type="radio"/> Don't know | <input type="radio"/> Other factors, please specify: _____ | | |

Q3 How **satisfied** are you with **press freedom in Hong Kong**? Please use a scale of 0-10 to rate, with 10 meaning very satisfied, 0 meaning very dissatisfied and 5 meaning half-and-half. _____ (0-10) ○ Don't know

Q4-Q6 **How common** do you think it is for the local news media to have doubt or hesitation when criticizing the targets below? Please use a scale of 0-10 to rate, with 10 meaning very common, 0 meaning not at all common, and 5 meaning half-and-half.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Q4 HKSAR Government | _____ (0-10) | <input type="radio"/> Don't know |
| Q5 Central Government | _____ (0-10) | <input type="radio"/> Don't know |
| Q6 Business tycoons | _____ (0-10) | <input type="radio"/> Don't know |

Q7-Q10 How common do you think the following circumstances are? Please use a scale of 0-10 to rate, with 10 meaning very common, and 0 meaning not common at all.

- | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Q7 Self-censorship of news media in Hong Kong | _____ (0-10) | <input type="radio"/> Don't know |
| Q8 Media owners or management exerting pressure and trying to influence the editorial freedom of frontline journalists | _____ (0-10) | <input type="radio"/> Don't know |
| Q9 Local journalists becoming the targets of extralegal intimidation or physical violence when reporting | _____ (0-10) | <input type="radio"/> Don't know |
| Q10 Hong Kong news media facing difficulties in obtaining information they need for reporting | _____ (0-10) | <input type="radio"/> Don't know |

Q11 How adequate do you think existing laws in Hong Kong are in safeguarding local journalists so they can **obtain information they want freely**? Please use a scale of 0-10 to rate, with 10 meaning very adequate, and 0 meaning very inadequate. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q12 How effective do you think is the **watchdog role played by the local news media**? Please use a scale of 0-10 to rate, with 10 meaning very effective, and 0 meaning very ineffective. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q13 Overall, do you think there is a **diversity of viewpoints** within local media? Please use a scale of 0-10 to rate, with 10 meaning very much diversified, and 0 meaning not at all. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q14 Compared to a year ago, do you think overall press freedom in Hong Kong has become better, worse or remains unchanged?

- Much better Somewhat better No change Somewhat worse Much worse Don't know

Q15 Some have suggested **the HKSAR Government as a key player in the suppression of press freedom**. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- Very much agree Quite agree Half-and-half Not quite agree Very much disagree Don't know

Q16 Please rate **the attitude of Hong Kong Government officials, including the Chief Executive, when they reply to media inquiries** in terms of 0 to 10, with 10 meaning absolutely truthful, and 0 indicates they completely avoid the inquiries. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q17 Please rate **the degree of government manipulation of the media in reporting news and information** in terms of 0 to 10, with 10 meaning greatly manipulated, and 0 meaning not at all manipulated. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q18-21 According to your own experience, how common are the following practices? Please use a scale of 0-10 to rate, with 10 meaning very common, and 0 meaning not at all common.

Q18 I practiced self-censorship when I came under pressure. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q19 My supervisors or management edited or deleted my article/ news report or rejected my story ideas for fear of offending **business tycoons/consortia**. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q20 My supervisors or management edited or deleted my article/ news report or rejected my story ideas for fear of offending **the HKSAR Government**. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q21 My supervisors or management edited or deleted my article/ news report or rejected my story ideas for fear of offending **the Central Government**. _____ (0-10) Don't know

Q22 Has the increasing emphasis of "one country over two systems" by central government officials made you uncomfortable in reporting dissenting voices?

- Yes No Don't know

Q23 Have your supervisors or management ever put pressure on you when encountering news about discussion of Hong Kong independence, namely asking you to report less/not to report?

- Yes No Don't know

Q24 How frequent has law enforcers resorted to violence to interfere with journalists at work?

- Very frequently Quite frequently Half-and-half Infrequently Very infrequently Don't know

Q25 Do you think the following incidents in the past year **damaged press freedom in Hong Kong**?

	Very damaging	Quite damaging	Half- half	Not very damaging	Nodamage at all	Don't know
A. Enactment of Hong Kong National Security Law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B. Police conducted search at Next Media Premises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C. Police amended the definition of “media representatives” in the Police General Order, membership cards issued by HKJA and HKPPA no longer recognized	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D. Bao Choy, Producer of RTHK’s program “Hong Kong Connection” accused by the police of making false declarations after checking vehicle registrations for news gathering purpose	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E. Mass layoff of i-Cable's news department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Personal information

D1 Gender	<input type="radio"/> Male	<input type="radio"/> Female		
D2 Age	<input type="radio"/> 19 or below	<input type="radio"/> 20-29	<input type="radio"/> 30-39	<input type="radio"/> 40-49
	<input type="radio"/> 50-59	<input type="radio"/> 60-69	<input type="radio"/> 70 or above	
D3 Position	<input type="radio"/> Reporter/ Translator/ Photojournalist	<input type="radio"/> Team leader		
	<input type="radio"/> Assignment editor / Deputy assignment editor/ Photo assignment editor	<input type="radio"/> Editor/ Photo editor		
	<input type="radio"/> Deputy/ Assistant chief editor/ Editorial director	<input type="radio"/> Chief editor		
	<input type="radio"/> Others (Please specify): _____			
D4 Number of years working in the media industry	<input type="radio"/> _____ year(s)			
D5 Type of media you work for	<input type="radio"/> Television	<input type="radio"/> Radio	<input type="radio"/> Newspaper	<input type="radio"/> Magazine
	<input type="radio"/> Online media	<input type="radio"/> Others (Please specify): _____		
D6 Main section/ page you work for	<input type="radio"/> General local news	<input type="radio"/> Spot news	<input type="radio"/> Sports news	<input type="radio"/> Entertainment news
	<input type="radio"/> International news and translation	<input type="radio"/> Financial news	<input type="radio"/> Newspaper supplements	<input type="radio"/> Photography
	<input type="radio"/> Online			

~ End of Questionnaire ~

SN : _____E«No»_____