

**For Immediate Release**

**Own Voices: Breaking Stereotypes -  
documentary screening & panel discussion**

**(Hong Kong - 20 March 2018)** In celebration of the upcoming International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2018, **KELY Support Group (KELY)** organises the **Own Voices: Breaking Stereotypes** documentary screening, which aims to break racial stereotypes and to promote awareness of racial harmony.

Hong Kong is a world-renowned international city. Apart from the Chinese population, people of various ethnicity live and work here. According to the Thematic Report: Ethnic Minorities of the 2016 Population By-census, the population of ethnic minorities (EM) (including foreign domestic helpers) in Hong Kong have increased significantly by 70.8% from about 342,000 in 2006 to more than 584,000 in 2016. Although more EM are locally born and raised in Hong Kong in recent years, some ethnic minority youth are still struggling to find their place in the city due to the prevalent notions, beliefs and stereotypes imposed on them that may affect employment and education opportunities as well as social integration in the community. In the making of the Own Voices: Breaking Stereotypes documentary, some of our EM youth interviewees expressed through personal stories that they have experienced racial profiling, discrimination exists because of cultural misunderstandings, and that language barriers limit their education or even job opportunities.

In the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities 2016, it is revealed that there were more than 49,000 “poor” EMs. Poverty rate of ethnic minorities was 19.4%, up from 15.8% in 2011. Among the poor EM population, South Asians (SAs) accounted for 40.6% while Pakistanis made up about 20.2%. Since the school attendance rates of EM youth are generally lower than territorial average and they are less able to attain post-secondary education, a majority (74.7%) of the working ethnic minorities were engaged in low income “elementary occupations”. This causes working poverty to be commonplace. It was also observed from the report that lower language proficiency, especially with Chinese, was one of the factors that hindered SAs and Southeast Asians’ employability and community integration. These all contribute to some of the stereotypes our city may impose towards ethnic minorities: they may be less educated and less skilled, usually poor, and are more likely to commit crime.

Own Voices: Breaking Stereotypes is a multimedia project comprising documentary-style videos and photographs, first hand stories of ethnic minorities from their own point of view. With the topic of "Breaking Stereotypes", these stories explore the stereotypes imposed on ethnic minority youth in Hong Kong, hoping to bridge an understanding between the non-Chinese youth and Chinese youth community, and start conversations on how to make positive changes in our society.

The multimedia project was initiated and directed by 2 ethnic minority youth in Hong Kong. *“I think it's time to see ethnic minorities as Hong Kongers especially if they've lived here all their lives. Ethnic minorities like myself love Hong Kong and we want to be part of Hong Kong but there's always that*

*struggle if Hong Kong would embrace us just the same,”* commented one of the directors of the documentary, Jianne Soriano. KELY is a partner of this project and we are delighted to have Lingnan University and the Equal Opportunities Commission’s (EOC) support with the screening event, promoting awareness to more local young people.

*“We are delighted that ethnic minority youth in Hong Kong have the chance to voice out their personal stories via this multimedia project. This not only shows their confidence and talent but also give them an opportunity to start conversations for a positive future. While different measures exist in Hong Kong, it is important that we know how to effectively utilise or improve them in order to better empower and support ethnic minority youth.”* Sky Siu, Executive Director of KELY Support Group, explained what we hope to achieve through this project.

A panel discussion follows the documentary screening to highlight the harms of stereotypes, ways of maintaining racial harmony, and recommendations on fostering inclusion. EOC Chairperson Professor Alfred Chan Cheung-ming, Professor Leung Yuk-ming Lisa, Associate Professor, Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, as well as EM and local Chinese students were invited to share on the panel some of their experiences and insights.

### **Own Voices: Breaking Stereotypes**

Date and time: 20 March 2018 (Tuesday), 4:30 pm - 6 pm

Venue: Lee Ying Lam Lecture Theatre (MBG07), Patrick Lee Wan Keung Academic Building,  
Lingnan University, 8 Castle Peak Road, Tuen Mun

**URL of documentary: <https://youtu.be/n446Lzx1iuw>**

#### **Media Contact:**

Ms. Helen So, Communications & Development Coordinator

Tel: 2521 6890

Email: [helenso@kely.org](mailto:helenso@kely.org)

#### **About KELY Support Group**

KELY Support Group (KELY) is a non-government funded bilingual organisation which provides support to youth between the ages of 14 and 24 in Hong Kong from Chinese-speaking, Ethnic Minority and English-speaking backgrounds.

Our mission is to empower young people to reach their full potential.

Our programmes and services range from resistance and harm reduction around drug and alcohol misuse to positive youth development for vulnerable and disadvantaged youth. With a priority to understand young people’s perspectives, we equip them with key life skills and resilience as they face various challenges growing up in Hong Kong.

KELY’s 3 Core Services:

- Prevention Education & Harm Reduction
- Positive Youth Development
- Advocacy

[kely.org](http://kely.org)