



**Motion to Stand in Solidarity with Students and Protestors Demanding Democratic Government Worldwide, in particular, Hong Kong**

Whereas, there are many jurisdictions in the world, listed in Appendix A, which do not have genuine universal suffrage, as well as truly free and fair elections,

Whereas, the Chinese government has determined that it will only allow residents of Hong Kong to elect the leader of the city from a list of candidates pre-approved by Beijing<sup>1</sup>,

Whereas, there has been a grassroots movement, involving many students, aimed at protesting against and rejecting this limitation on democracy<sup>2</sup>,

Whereas, this movement's protests have been attacked by Hong-Kong police, who have been filmed using pepper spray and batons against protesters<sup>3</sup>,

Whereas, there are members of the Society which hail from Hong Kong, whose lives at home will be directly affected by the outcome of this situation,

Whereas, there are members of the society hailing from many of the jurisdictions listed in Appendix A, whose futures may well be impacted by outcomes of struggles for democracy at home and abroad,

Be it resolved, that the SSMU adopt a position of solidarity with the protesters in Hong-Kong and in the jurisdictions listed in Appendix A, especially our fellow students,

Be it resolved, that the SSMU, through an appropriate mechanism, issue a statement of solidarity with the protesters in Hong Kong and in other nations mentioned in Appendix A, and condemning repressive actions by police forces against those protesting for democratic government,

Be it resolved, that the above statement have as part of its aim the education of McGill students regarding the Hong Kong situation specifically, and thus should include a brief recapitulation of the situation in Hong Kong as well as the reasons for SSMU's position of solidarity,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-27921954>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-29408476>

<sup>3</sup> [www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/20/hong-kong-negotiations-go\\_n\\_6016982.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/20/hong-kong-negotiations-go_n_6016982.html)



Students' Society of McGill University  
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

**Office of the Speaker**  
Bureau de Président du Conseil

FOR APPROVAL

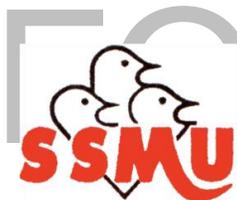
Moved By:

David Benrimoh, Senate Caucus Rep

Joshua Chin Kar Yan, Medicine Rep

Rachel Weaver, Services Rep

Chloe Rourke, Senate Caucus Rep



## Appendix A: Countries and Jurisdictions

Below is a list of countries without electoral democracies published by Freedom in the World by Freedom House.

<https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FIW2014%20Booklet.pdf>

To qualify for electoral democracies, a country must have:

1. A competitive, multiparty political system;
2. Universal adult suffrage for all citizens (with exceptions for restrictions that states may legitimately place on citizens as sanctions for criminal offenses);
3. Regularly contested elections conducted in conditions of ballot secrecy, reasonable ballot security, and the absence of massive voter fraud that yields results that are unrepresentative of the public will; and
4. Significant public access of major political parties to the electorate through the media and through generally open political campaigning.

A list of countries without electoral democracies, or in other word, without genuine universal suffrage: **Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong (China), Fiji, North Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Gaza Strip (Palestine)**

Other jurisdictions with practices that diminish the quality of democracy:

**Spain (Presidential candidate nominated by King of Spain)**

**Andorra (Co-president elected by French people, but not by Andorra people)**

**Samoa (Only matai people can run for elections)**

**Thailand (due to the 2014 Thai coup d'état incident)**

**Indonesia (The presidential candidate must believe in one and only God)**

**Several American states (such as Maryland and Mississippi) which require (though this is illegal as per the U.S constitution) that candidates for election not be atheists (<http://americanhumanist.org/HNN/details/2012-05-unelectable-atheists-us-states-that-prohibit-godless>)**