



# PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

## Research



### Community Response and Government Policy Development in the COVID-19 Era

With community mobility restricted, lockdowns during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic had led to a radical change in the way Hong Kong institutions functioned. PolyU researchers of the Research Institute for Sustainable Urban Development, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics examined the correlation between community mobility and government policy responses, discovering that government policy changes could predict the trend of COVID-19 infection cases. The government also communicated with the public responsively by organising nearly daily press conferences to disseminate information on the pandemic situation, and announced policy changes several days in advance. Therefore, behavioral changes of the public may occur before the policy enforcement.

### Intimate Partner Violence Prevention

Analysing data from 7,466 households in Mainland China, researchers of the Department of Applied Social Sciences have developed the first age-specific and gender-specific prevalence estimates for different types of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Mainland China. With regard to sexual violence and severe physical assault, they revealed that most victims experienced unidirectional violence. Generally, physical assault and psychological aggression were found to be gender symmetric, but sexual violence between intimate partners to be gender asymmetric. The research highlighted the need to involve all genders in violence prevention and develop age-appropriate programmes.

## Education

### Justice in a Social Context

The Department of Applied Social Sciences hosts some subjects focusing on justice in a social context. The subject "Justice and the Modern Social Context" compares different ways of thinking about justice and evaluates the links among moral reasoning, justice as a concept, social policy and administration, and the modern Chinese social context. Aiming to develop students' critical thinking and analytical skills, another subject "Theories of Social Policy" examines the topic in relation to social policy and social justice.

### Subject: Civil Society and Governance

Hosted by the Department of Applied Social Sciences, the subject aims to provide students with a basic knowledge of how civil society is linked to governance, and its historical development in local and global contexts. Being introduced to topics that include human rights and citizenship, students are expected to be able to examine emerging issues in the future development of civil society and governance, and clearly communicate their views.





## Engagement

### ICAC Ambassador Programme

With a view to engaging students in the promotion of integrity, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has launched the programme in collaboration with the PolyU Student Affairs Office. Students who are selected to be "ICAC Ambassadors" attend a leadership training programme hosted by the ICAC. With the knowledge and skills acquired from the training, they work as a team to organise a series of on-campus and online integrity promotion activities, with the aim of raising their fellow students' awareness of integrity and anti-corruption.

## Policies and Operations

### Sexual Harassment Policy

PolyU is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment, promoting equality and eliminating all forms of discrimination, including sexual harassment in the workplace, on campus, and at off-campus locations where university activities take place. The policy outlines procedures for informal resolutions and formal complaints, ensuring that allegations and complaints are being handled fairly and confidentially.

### Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy

Complying with the Hong Kong Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap. 201), the University's Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy takes a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption. All staff members are prohibited from soliciting or accepting any advantage without permission of the President or his delegate.

