

June 12, 2023

The Washington Post
The Editor

Dear Editor,

We strongly condemn the biased and untrue content of your article “Hong Kong prisons work to compel loyalty to China among young activists” (June 8), which, by and large, vilifies the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department (CSD).

Our rehabilitation program Project PATH aims to offer reflection and learning opportunities to persons in custody (PICs) and promote law-abiding and inclusive values among PICs so that they can lead a healthy life upon release. Your article distorts our good intention in helping young PICs disengage from radical thoughts and acquire a better understanding of the positive values. It is ridiculous to suggest that there is any intention to silence or indoctrinate program participants.

In fact, this rehabilitation program is voluntary, and PICs have never been forced to take part in it. The high voluntary participation rate of round 70% of the total number of convicted PICs involved in black-clad violence cases since the introduction of this program speaks loudly and clearly for the value our young PICs place on this program. An increasing number of successful re-integration cases involving participants of this program also proves its worth and effectiveness. Your smearing of our rehabilitation program as a tool for political control and undermining human rights is totally misleading, irresponsible and absurd.

After all, CSD performs our duties guided by law, rules and regulations. Accusing us of imposing retribution to and creating a sense of hopelessness among PICs, apparently using films as examples, is baseless and shameful.

Yours sincerely,

WONG Kwok-hing
Commissioner, Hong Kong Correctional Services Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region