

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****President**Steven Rathgeb Smith  
*United States***President-Elect**Ruth Phillips  
*Australia***Secretary**Kin-man Chan  
*Hong Kong***Treasurer**Paula Chies Schommer  
*Brazil*Nana Asantewa Afadzina  
*Ghana*Oonagh Breen  
*Ireland*Anna Domaradzka  
*Poland*Lesley Hustinx  
*Belgium*Hagai Katz  
*Israel*Bhekinkosi Moyo  
*South Africa*Maria R. Nindita Radyati  
*Indonesia*Ola Segnestam Larsson  
*Sweden*Theo Schuyt  
*The Netherlands*Stefan Toepler  
*United States*Jiangang Zhu  
*China***Ex Officio:**Annette Zimmer  
*Germany*Taco Brandsen  
Editor, *Voluntas*Ruth Simsa  
Editor, *Voluntas*Margery Daniels  
Executive Director

12 November 2018

Honorable Carrie Lam  
Chief Executive, Hong Kong Government  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
People's Republic of China  
Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear Honorable Carrie Lam,

The International Society for the Third Sector Studies (ISTR) expresses deepest concern on the prosecution of Professor Kin-man Chan by the Hong Kong Government for his alleged conspiracy, incitement, and incitement to incite others to join the pro-democracy Umbrella Movement in 2014. ISTR is one of the largest academic societies in the world promoting research and teaching on civil society and the third sector. Professor Chan has been a very distinguished member of our society for many years; indeed he was elected by our international membership to our board of directors and was selected to serve as the Secretary of the Board in 2017. Throughout his long academic career, Professor Chan has been committed to promoting peaceful action for universal suffrage as stipulated in the Basic Law of Hong Kong and freedom of expression for all citizens. Moreover, his scholarship on civil society is widely recognized within the academic community throughout the world. We strongly urge the justice system in Hong Kong to acknowledge his noteworthy achievements as a scholar and citizen by dropping the charges against him.

Best regards,



STEVEN RATHGEB SMITH  
ISTR President