



Baptist Union of Great Britain

Hong Kong Response Project

Newsletter 24 – Spring 2026

Early March Immigration Announcement: Update for BN(O) Visa Holders

Following the **Home Office's Explanatory Memorandum to the Statement of Changes in the Immigration Rules: HC 1691, 5 March 2026**, we would like to share a brief update relevant to the Hong Kong community, especially those on the BN(O) visa route.

The March 2026 memorandum did not set out any separate BN(O)-specific change to the English language requirement. At the same time, the current Immigration Rules for the Hong Kong BN(O) route continue to state that, for settlement, applicants must demonstrate English language ability in speaking and listening at **at least level B1**. In simple terms, for BN(O) visa holders, the English language requirement for settlement **remains B1 at present**.

In addition, while the Home Office proposed mandatory minimum income thresholds in its consultation on *Earned Settlement* in November 2025, the March 2026 explanatory memorandum **did not mention any income threshold**. We therefore understand that the original scheme remains in place at this time. However, some Hong Kongers remain concerned about what any future changes may bring.

We are thankful that there have been no new changes to the original BN(O) visa route in this March announcement. At the same time, we recognise that announcements concerning immigration rules can bring uncertainty and anxiety to many families and individuals who are building a new life in the UK. For Hong Kongers who are already navigating the practical, emotional, and spiritual challenges of resettlement, **any lack of clarity around the settlement route may give rise to concern about the future**. We therefore encourage our churches and supporters to continue holding them in prayer.

We also want to express our **heartfelt thanks** to all who have supported Hong Kongers through this journey. Your prayers, friendship, practical care, and advocacy have been a great encouragement. We are deeply grateful to individuals and church communities across the Baptist Union who have walked alongside Hong Kong families with compassion and faithfulness.

Please continue to pray for wisdom, peace, and reassurance for those affected by changes to the immigration system, and for all who are seeking stability and hope in a time of change.

Introduction of Chinese Bible App **SPARKS** From Bible Society



During the online prayer meeting in April, Ursula Lai, Church Engagement Manager for Chinese communities at the British and Foreign Bible Society, introduced a powerful digital Bible platform to us.

The platform, SPARKS (火花), is a digital resource hub featuring over 60 Bible translations with side-by-side comparison. It also includes analysis tools, including access to the original languages.

Chinese readers can study the Bible by watching videos, listening to podcasts, engaging with devotional materials, and joining courses. The platform aims to help Chinese-speaking Christians study Scripture and grow in God's Word.

One of its newest and most distinctive features, compared to existing Bible apps, is its AI platform. Users can ask questions about the Bible, making it a practical resource for deeper understanding and spiritual growth on their [Web-based Platform](#).

Hong Kong Response Project NEWS and PRAYER:

1. Hong Kong Response Project has been worked for 5 years, we are coming to the end of 2nd Phase. Give Thanks to God's guidance and thankful to have our Local Baptist Churches and pastors walk along with Hong Kongers in this critical time of immigration.
2. Praying for the new phase of this project, finding a way to serve the churches, especially Hong Kong community in churches and society.
3. We are coming to the last Online prayer meeting in June and we invite you to come together to give thanks and share your stories. We will introduce our new phase as well. **Next time will be in June.**

For more information or need a chat, please contact Sharon and Londy on sshek@baptist.org.uk or lchan@baptist.org.uk