

REFUGE FOR ABUSED DOMESTIC WORKERS FACES CLOSURE DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS



Photo via Facebook.



By **Vicky Wong**

Jun 14, 2018 | 6:42pm Hong Kong time

Since it was first set up in 1986, Bethune House Migrant Women’s Refuge has provided shelter for domestic workers seeking refuge from abusive employers.

Now, the shelter is facing the threat of closure due to lack of funds and is appealing to the public for donations to keep its doors open.

Bethune receives no government subsidies and relies entirely on private donations. The organization recently lost one of its major financial backers, and only has enough money to last until the end of June.

The charity typically houses up to 30 domestic workers at any time, and donations to the center cover rent, utilities, food, and other expenses related to the needs of these women such as transport, toiletries and visa extension fees.

The women staying in these shelters are seeking shelter from abusive employers. Some of them are going through the court system.

Bethune’s executive director Edwina A. Antonio told *Coconuts HK* that they need HK\$1 million (US\$127,400) to cover expenses for eight months, but have so far only reached about 24 percent of their target.

She said that there were currently 21 women staying in their shelters, which were in high demand given a lack of alternatives.

The group was “doing everything to prevent the shelters from closing down,” she added.

Antonio said that if worse comes to worse, Bethune will need to request other shelters to house these women, but added that such facilities were usually full, pushed to the limits by an increase in premature contract terminations and incidences of abuse and exploitation.

“We are more than a shelter, we transform victims to survivors. There is an urgency because it is a humanitarian crisis,” she said.

“These women support us so we can support Hong Kong, so by helping us remain open, you are helping the women to access justice.”

One of the women who was able to access justice thanks to Bethune was, Ariane — who features in a video posted on the charity’s Facebook page last night.

<https://www.facebook.com/BethuneHouse/posts/1377128935721730>

She stayed at Bethune for more than six months while awaiting a court case with her former employer. She was unable to work during that time and had no other place to stay.

Donations can be made [online](#) or via PayPal at shelter@bethunehouse.org.hk.

You can also donate via direct deposit to Hang Seng Bank S/A number #284-8-241309, or via cheque payable to The Bethune House Migrant Women’s Refuge, Ltd and addressed to the MFMW Limited, St. John’s Cathedral, 4-8 Garden Road, Central.

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HONG KONG OBSERVATORY ISSUES NO. 8 TYPHOON WARNING

Tropical cyclone track of Nalgae. Photo: Hong Kong Observatory

By **Coconuts Hong Kong**

Nov 2, 2022 | 2:52pm Hong Kong time

The Hong Kong Observatory issued the No. 8 typhoon warning this afternoon with tropical cyclone Nalgae approaching the city.

The No. 8 northwest gale or storm signal was issued at 1:40pm.

This means that winds with mean speeds of 63 kilometers per hour or more are expected from the northwest quarter.

“At 6pm, tropical storm Nalgae was centered about 120 kilometers south-southeast of Hong Kong and is forecast to move northwest at about 10 kilometers per hour edging closer to the vicinity of the Pearl River Estuary,” said the city’s meteorological agency.

“According to the latest forecast, Nalgae will edge closer to Hong Kong tonight as compared with the previous forecast and will skirt within 100 kilometers of Hong Kong.”

Under the influence of the rainbands associated with Nalgae, showers over the territory are expected to become more frequent gradually tonight.

The No. 8 gale or storm signal will remain in force before 10pm tonight.

Nalgae will weaken further. Whether the No. 8 gale or storm signal is maintained thereafter depends on the degree of weakening of Nalgae. If Nalgae weakens further into a tropical depression, the observatory will issue a lower tropical cyclone warning signal.

Seas are very rough with swells. Members of the public are advised to stay away from the shoreline and not to engage in water sports.

Earlier in the day, the Education Bureau announced that classes at all schools are suspended today.

The Labour Department reminded employers to make work arrangements for staff during and after tropical cyclone and rainstorm warnings, including arrangements on reporting for duty, release from work, resumption of work and work from home (if applicable).

There are changes to public transport routes. Check out these links for the latest updates: [MTR](#) | [KMB](#) | [Citybus and NWEF](#) | [Star Ferry](#)

However, the Global Financial Leaders’ Investment Summit organized by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, which has been hyped by the government as proof that Hong Kong is “back”, is continuing at the Four Seasons Hotel. The summit features around 200 financiers from around the world.

Editor’s note: The story has been updated with weather information by the Hong Kong Observatory at 6pm.

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