The People Behind the Hong Kong Protests

“Never in Hong Kong’s history have you seen so many different professional groups or identities and social roles coming out to protest,” said Samson Yuen, a political scientist at Lingnan University in Hong Kong.

# Lawyers

Hundreds of lawyers provide pro bono legal assistance to arrested protesters. On the front lines, protesters often stamp their lawyers’ phone number on their wrists and use hairspray to prevent it from smudging, so they know whom to call. This is a stressful job as the police makes their job as hard as possible. Lawyers often have to go to multiple police stations in different neighborhoods to find their clients, and the police sometimes refuses to let them meet their clients.

# The medical staff

Volunteer teams of doctors, nurses, medics and social workers don their yellow vests marked with red crosses and stand by, ready to provide medical care and psychological assistance to protesters hit by tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets.

Teams of medical volunteers stand by at every protest, and run hotlines and provide consultation services to protesters who are afraid to seek medical help through the healthcare system.

# The “parents”

Financial support for protesters to buy safety equipment like helmets and gloves. Provide food for those who have spent all their money on safety equipment and have no money for food, and got kicked out by their families because of different political beliefs. Car owners also organize themselves to pick up protesters from the streets and drive them home when the subway shuts itself down and the police searches for protesters on busses.

# The Creative

Illustrators, graphic designers, animators, musicians, sculptors, artists and videographers, who all said they were motivated to make art to boost morale among the protesters. There are more than 16,000 posters (文宣) in one Telegram artist group alone. The song “Glory to Hong Kong” by Thomas dgx yhl has become one of the most sung songs during the protests, and is sometimes referred to as the anthem of Hong Kong.

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# Crowdfunding

Hong Kong’s crowdfunding campaigns have raised about $15m since the start of the protests in June. After a weekend of violence last month, people donated $1m within an hour to buy advertisements in international newspapers in a bid to raise awareness of what protesters said was growing police brutality.   
There have been many crowdfunding campaigns to support the protests, including buying advertisements in international newspapers for the G20 summit in late June, creating the 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund, purchasing newspaper advertisements again in early August, commissioning Lady Liberty of Hong Kong in late August, buying T-shirts to give out at NBA games, and many more.