



# 弱勢社群 的社工 · 施麗珊

施麗珊當了十幾年社工，一直從事社區發展工作，專門協助社會上最弱勢的一群，給人的形象是彰顯公義的化身，個性硬朗、不畏強權、不平則鳴，有點像粵語長片年代的女俠。然而，施麗珊沒有天生異能，今天的女俠都是由過去的成長歷程所打造出來，她走過的路，曾經面對的嘲諷和恥笑，與她今天照顧的新移民街坊沒有兩樣。

施麗珊11歲時從福建來港，一家人蝸居板間房，無論是生活上，還是學習上都遇到不少困難，在學校非常沉默害羞，與現在的她沒有一點相似。

「初到香港時只懂閩南話，廣東話嘛，聽不懂又說不準，經常被嘲笑，而且ABC、二十六個英文字母也不懂，根本追不上香港小學的英文科程度。」

### 立志當社工

經過一番努力，適應情況已大為好轉，而且認識了幾位能夠互相扶持的同學。中學時喜歡讀報和閱讀一些有關社會時事的書籍，例如劉賓雁的《第二種忠誠》和白樺的作品，還遇到一位啟發她參與社會事務的老師。這位中學老師同時是區議員，把公義、平等的概念帶給她，讓他立志長大當個有社會責任的社工，為弱勢人士發聲。

施麗珊於1992年進入浸會學院（其後升格為大學）修讀社會工作，期間積極參與學會組織及《學生報》的編採工作，畢業後加入香港社區組織協會（SoCO），從事社區發展服務，認為這類服務的手法多元化，具組織性和講求伙伴合作，又要靈活動員社會資源，很有挑戰性。



她初時接觸深水埗、大角嘴、觀塘、灣仔及筲箕灣一帶的籠屋和板間房居民，老弱傷殘、婦女和兒童皆是協助對象，當中不乏由內地來港團聚的新移民。想不到以前被歧視的經驗成為她的資本，這種感同身受的感覺讓她取得街坊信任，而且經常家訪，街坊每遇到任何生活上的難題，都會找施姑娘。然而，施麗珊不是輕聲細語的那種社工，與街坊說話斬釘截鐵，有時更會直斥其非，絕不縱容街坊。

「說話率直不代表沒禮貌，彼此都是以理服人，若明知他們有過分要求，例如濫用社會資源，我們作為社工也要照單全收嗎？」

“說話率直不代表沒禮貌，彼此都是以理服人”





### 從居港權事件學懂世情

施麗珊成為街坊的好幫手，但讓普羅大眾認識施麗珊這個名字的卻是1997年前後的居港權爭議，當時社區組織協會全情支援欲申請家人來港團聚的港人和其家庭，發動不少社會行動，甚至參與法律訴訟的工作。當時施麗珊和幾位同事不停接收個案，探訪求助者，甚至處理法律文件，她形容自己好像當上律師助理，早晚不停工作之餘，又要面對某些人的敵視。

「街上有人叫我『大陸妹』，又說我協助內地婦女，他日丈夫也會北上『包二奶』，有時還收到恐嚇電話和郵件，但我問心無愧，怕什麼？」

她說最痛心的個案是那些骨肉分離的個案，這些街坊會主動求助，普遍也顯得較積極。其中一個個案的街坊十多年來不斷申請家人來港團聚，不得要領，原因是當時大陸某些省市貪污情況嚴重，要付巨額賄款才能申請妻兒來港，但這些街坊照顧自己三餐也成問題，何來巨款行賄？

「這位街坊突然跪在我面前……雙手奉上紅包……希望我替他賄賂內地官員申請家人來港。你可以想像，真的很悲哀，家庭悲哀，制度也悲哀，貪腐普遍到街坊以為香港也是無法無天。」施麗珊強忍眼淚說。

至於整個社會行動最後演變至火燒入境處，造成人命傷亡的悲劇，她感到很可惜，很心痛。然而，在爭取居港權一役中，施麗珊說自己得多失少，學懂了閱讀政治，看清政治的複雜和善變，也了解到法律、法治的重要，其後更引發她修讀法律課程，取得香港大學法律系人權法的法學碩士資格。



“我問心無愧，怕什麼？”



### 兒童有權發聲

施麗珊想過繼續修讀法律，或者他朝有機會走上律政之路，但關顧弱勢社群的心把她留在社工行列，繼續協助有需要的街坊。她很著重培育兒童，認為兒童是社會的希望，可惜政府和民間對支援貧窮兒童未見盡力，故每逢大時節，她都會率領一眾兒童召開記者會談貧窮問題，甚至走到政府總部和禮賓府請願。有人批評指她利用兒童在鏡頭前博同情，她卻沒有半點動氣。

「不要以為小朋友無知，我們每次請願時都會向他們和家長詳細講述行動目的和理念，最終由他們自行決定是否站出來，我們尊重兒童權利，絕不會勉強他們。」

組織社會行動的人對傳媒又愛又恨，施麗珊說每次接受無線新聞採訪後，曾在螢光幕自白的街坊外出時也特別受人注目，不單親朋戚友致電慰問，甚至有人專誠來到中心看「明星」。

在社工界工作了十多年，她最大心願是看到街坊生活得到改善，最痛心是看著下一代學壞，而最擔心的是對兒童的支援來得太遲。常言道兒童是我們的未來，但若我們不建構他們的今天，哪怎樣有未來？她製作有關兒童貧窮的攝影集時更揀選了獲得諾貝爾文學獎的智利女詩人密斯特拉爾（Gabriela Mistral）的詩句為結語：

We are guilty of many errors and many faults,  
but our worst crime is abandoning the children,  
neglecting the fountain of life.  
Many of the things we need can wait.  
The child cannot.  
Right now is the time  
bones are being formed, blood is being made,  
senses are being developed.  
To the child we cannot answer "Tomorrow."  
The child's name is "Today."

Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957)



“最終由他們自行決定是否站出來”



除了社會工作外，施麗珊還希望有何突破和新發展呢？

「希望參與國際組織的工作或文字創作、報告文學的工作，但案頭有許多未完的個案，單是善後也至少需要一年時間……其實，我也想過在商界發展啊！」她說罷也忍不住笑了出來。

是的，性格率直、以扶弱為己任的俠女又怎會羨慕商界追名逐利的生活。☑



# SZE Lai-shan works for the poor

A shy 10-year old little girl who came from the Mainland China was being looked down upon by her schoolmates because of not knowing Cantonese and ABC. After trying her very best to catch up and adapt to the new environment, she got used to it and had started learning social issues by reading hard and participating in social actions since her secondary school days. Due to her own experience, she wanted to join a helping profession so as to help the underprivileged, especially the new migrants. After completing her study in the Social Work Department of Hong Kong Baptist University in 1995, she joined the Society for Community Organization (SoCO) and is responsible for cage home work. This is the story of SZE Lai-shan who has been so committed to community work for over fifteen years.

SZE is a community organizer, serving residents of cage homes, cubicles and low-income families in the poor parts of Kowloon, such as Sham Shui Po, Tai Kok Tsui, Kwun Tong and Wan Chai. She strived to arouse social concern on the rights of the underprivileged by petitioning the Government and arranging media interview with the deprived families. She organized low income families in cage home and cubicle to fight for housing rights, new migrant women and children to fight for family reunion, anti-discrimination as well as equal opportunities for education and housing. Her endeavor was much appreciated by her service users who regarded her as the goddess who fight for social justice and equal opportunities for the poor. But every coin has two sides. She has been criticized for using deprived children to get media attention.

In the case of helping Hong Kong parents of Mainland-born children in the pursuit of the right of abode in Hong Kong after 1997, she was fully involved in various social actions and lawsuit in some cases. Some people scolded her and even sent her letters and phone calls to threaten her but in vain. "I'm doing the right thing and I won't give up. What should I be scared of?"

As the case resulted in a fatal disaster, she was very upset and learnt more about the complexity of politics and the importance of law and order. She then started her law study to enhance her professional knowledge and obtained a Master of Laws degree in Human Rights at The University of Hong Kong.

She regarded serving the deprived groups, especially children living in poverty as her lifelong career. A series of action continued to be carried out periodically to arouse social concern on the inter-generational poverty and the plight of the low income families and children, including writing articles, organizing petition and even publishing photo album of real life of the underprivileged.

"I see hope in the next generation but we've to act promptly to do something for them as Ms Gabriela Mistral, the nobel prize winner said, Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time. To the child we cannot answer 'Tomorrow'. The child's name is 'Today'."

