

NEWS/BUSINESS/FINANCE/LIFESTYLE EDITORS  
[For Immediate Release]

## Community Business Launches the First Mentoring Programme for LGBT+ Professionals in Hong Kong

**Hong Kong, 28 January 2021** – Community Business, a leading not-for-profit organisation advancing responsible and inclusive business practices in Asia, yesterday launched its first [LGBT+ Mentoring Programme](#) with orientation virtually. The session consisted of goal setting, clarifying expectations of the programme and ice breaking between participants. In the coming eight months, participants will join monthly 1:1 mentoring meetings and professional development events. The programme will be completed on 18 August.

The LGBT+ Mentoring Programme is the first of its kind targeting professionals in Hong Kong. It is designed to tackle workplace inequalities and fill a gap in the market for young LGBT+ changemakers and potential future leaders in the early years of their careers. The LGBT+ Mentoring Programme has been structured to give young LGBT+ professionals a safe environment within which to address challenges and identify opportunities for career growth.

*“At Community Business, we have been discussing the need for a formal LGBT+ mentoring programme for some time, so it’s a joy to see this ambitious project finally taking shape here in Hong Kong. Developing a pipeline of passionate LGBT+ professionals and dedicated inclusion advocates is part of our broader commitment to building responsible leadership across Asia. Early career employees play a vital and vibrant role in shaping how our businesses treat LGBT+ employees, fostering a culture of inclusion and equality. We are delighted by the calibre of mentors and mentees who applied for this year’s inaugural programme, demonstrating that the desire and commitment to creating more equitable workplaces exist within our society and is just waiting to be harnessed,”* said Peter Sargant, CEO of Community Business.

Community Business received about 80 applications during the recruitment process from September to November 2020. 21 pairs of mentors and mentees were selected and paired up after the interviews and matching event in November and December 2020. They come diverse industries such as banking and finance, travel and tourism, information technology and the public sector.

For more information about 2021 LGBT+ Mentoring Programme, please refer to the [Community Business’ website](#).

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## About Community Business

Community Business is a not-for-profit organisation (Hong Kong Charity Number 91/6560) whose mission is to lead, inspire and support businesses to have a positive impact on people and communities. A recognised leader in advancing responsible and inclusive business practices in Asia, Community Business facilitates networks, conducts research and events, leads programmes and campaigns and provides consulting and training. Our focus on responsible business is aligned to four mission-led themes:

- Building responsible leadership
- Tackling workplace inequality
- Ensuring employee wellbeing
- Promoting social inclusion

Falling underneath the tackling workplace inequality theme, Community Business' **Creating Inclusive Workplace for LGBT+ Employees Campaign**, launched in 2008, has been a long-term and sustained effort designed to encourage and support companies to put LGBT+ inclusion firmly on their corporate agenda.

The campaign aims to:

- Raise awareness of LGBT+ inclusion as a business issue
- Increase understanding of LGBT+ issues from an Asian perspective
- Encourage and support companies to create inclusive workplaces for their LGBT+ employees in Asia
- Advocate for positive change in wider society

Founded in 2003 and based in Hong Kong with a presence in India and the United Kingdom, Community Business works with companies of all sizes and from diverse industries across Asia, harnessing the power of business to drive social change. For more information, please visit [www.communitybusiness.org](http://www.communitybusiness.org).

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