

Enlighten Hong Kong

There are almost 70,000 people with epilepsy in Hong Kong alone and yet it is still one of the most misunderstood medical conditions. The many misconceptions associated with epilepsy make living with it a huge challenge and those affected are regularly victims of discrimination, seclusion, and community prejudice. In Hong Kong, it was only in June 2010 that the Chinese character for epilepsy was changed to 腦癇症 "no (brain) gan" from 癲癇症 "dean (crazy) gan." Dean Gan was actually synonymous to "being crazy".

Enlighten's mission is two-fold, to provide support and care to those affected by epilepsy and to remove prejudice through community education. They understand that to improve the quality of lives of

those affected by epilepsy, they need to stress on building epilepsy awareness to eliminate the stigma associated with the condition.

March is epilepsy awareness month in Hong Kong. As purple is the colour globally recognised for epilepsy, throughout the month of March they will focus on raising epilepsy awareness with their "Paint the Town Purple" campaign. Get involved, join them on Purple Day and wear something purple. Show Hong Kong you care!

Further information can be found at www.enlightenhk.org/index.php/purple or on their Facebook page.



AustCham is a non-profit organisation and provides this space free of charge to other, selected non-profits or charities in Hong Kong.