


[EVENTS](#) | [PROGRAMMES](#) | [CEO BLOG](#)

Dear Stephanie

Last week, C.Y. Leung gave his final Policy Address as Chief Executive of Hong Kong.

Several local women's groups have been critical of the lack of childcare subsidies which featured in the Chief Executive's earlier Policy Addresses as well as the Government's omission to introduce MPF for homemakers.

At TWF, we sympathise with and support their concerns and would also have liked to see more focus on policies and programmes to address the challenges that women and girls continue to face in Hong Kong. On our wishlist, we had a commitment to review the 10 week statutory maternity leave policy with a view to potentially increasing this to the International Labour Organisation's prescribed minimum of 14 weeks, especially given this is already the position in the Mainland. We would also have liked to see a commitment by the government to encourage more girls and women to pursue STEM subjects and careers given Hong Kong's focus on technology and innovation as key pillars of economic growth.

At the same time, we were heartened by the Government's commitment to tackle three areas of discrimination in respect of which decisive action has been long overdue: first, the rights of foreign domestic helpers, secondly, support for people with disabilities, and thirdly, protection for sexual minorities.

According to Wednesday's Policy Address, the Labour Department plans to introduce an amendment bill this year to complement a newly promulgated code of practice for employment agencies aimed at offering better protection for the rights of domestic workers. If passed, the amendment will provide the legal basis for enforcing the code which is currently legally non-binding. The Chief Executive specifically mentioned Hong Kong's large population of some 350,000 foreign domestic helpers in his announcement, many of whom rely on employment agencies to find jobs. The department also plans to impose heavier penalties on employment agencies that overcharge jobseekers or operated without a licence.

The Government also announced a range of measures to support people with disabilities including setting up a standing advisory committee to review and follow up on the development of mental health services, injecting additional funding of HK\$100 million to create more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and converting the pilot scheme on on-site pre-school rehabilitation services into a regular government subsidy programme.

Finally, we were quite honestly a bit surprised but nonetheless delighted to see included in the Chapter relating to Human Rights in the Government's Policy Agenda for 2017 an explicit reference to the LGBTQ community. According to the Policy Agenda, the Government plans to provide training and resources for personnel in specific fields to enhance their knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities, to draw up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities for voluntary adoption by relevant organisations and individuals, to enhance public education and publicity to promote the message of non-discrimination, to review and reinforce support services and to conduct further studies on the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing anti-discrimination measures to provide a basis for future consultations.

At a time when the world is still reeling from Donald Trump's election and inauguration and many are concerned about the erosion of liberal norms and growing intolerance, the Hong Kong government's commitment to greater protections for these three marginalised communities is very welcome. We hope the underlying message that promoting a culture of diversity, inclusiveness and mutual respect is of critical importance is one that the new administration will strongly endorse and reinforce – both here and in the US!

Happy Chinese New Year from all of us at The Women's Foundation. Connect will be taking a break next week and will be back on February 7!

Warm regards

Su-Mei Thompson
 CEO, The Women's Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS



Celebrate International Women's Day with The Women's Foundation

TWF's 2017 IWD Gala Lunch is now sold out! Sponsored by Thomson Reuters, the lunch will feature an inspirational keynote address by Gary Liu, CEO of South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd. Drawing on his expertise in digital media and his experiences as a business leader, innovator and opinion influencer at Google, Spotify and Digg, Gary will share his thoughts on how to navigate a digital world with a distinct editorial identity,

how to unlock innovation through thought diversity and what it's like to straddle two cultures personally and professionally. The event will also include an update on TWF's work, a delectable lunch and enticing auction prizes. For prize sponsorship enquiries, please contact Sarah Abbott Ladner at Sarah.AbbottLadner@twfhk.org.

DATE: Friday, March 3, 2017

TIME: 12.00 – 2.00 p.m.

VENUE: JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong

[Click here to learn more](#)

TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



Positive Parenting Talk by Rita Ching

Last Saturday, TWF Deputy CEO, Rita Ching, gave a positive parenting talk to over 100 parents about positive parenting at Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming Secondary School. In her well-received talk, Rita drew on the curriculum of, and key learnings from, TWF's Life Skills Programme.



Girls Go Tech Coding Workshop in Shek Kip Mei

From January 23 to 25, we are running a GGT workshop for 40 F.1 and F.2 girls from Holy Trinity College in Shek Kip Mei. The girls will learn the hardware and coding skills needed to design wearable tech items like hats, T-shirts and shoes. Many thanks to Cisco for sponsoring the school's participation in GGT.

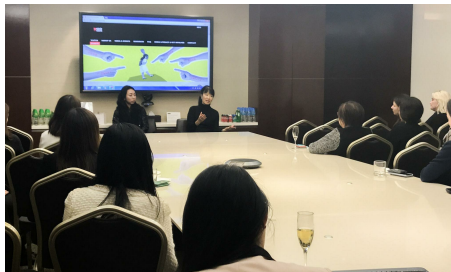
TWF IN THE NEWS



GirlSpark Camp 2017: News Coverage

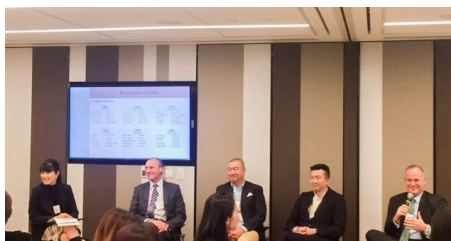
We're delighted by the extensive media coverage of GirlSpark Camp 2017. Check out these articles in [Computer World](#), [CTGoodJobs](#), [HKET](#), [UnWire Pro](#) and [Wen Wei Po](#).

SHE OBJECTS UPDATE



Last Wednesday, Blackstone hosted a screening of She Objects for around 40 staff. The screening was followed by a lively panel discussion featuring TWF CEO, Su-Mei Thompson and She Objects Director, Nicola Fan. To arrange a screening for your company, women's network, school or university, please email Sarah.AbbottLadner@twfhk.org.

IN THE COMMUNITY



TWF at the NextGen Women Leaders Programme

Yesterday, TWF CEO, Su-Mei Thompson, moderated the closing panel of the QUEST NextGen Women Leaders Programme hosted by BlackRock and Esquel Group for 60 emerging women leaders across different industries and companies in Hong Kong. Su-Mei moderated a panel of male leaders which included TWF Male Allies Brian



Henderson/Baker & McKenzie and James Quinnild/PwC, together with Bernard Auyang/Vida Nova Ventures and Bryant Lu/Ronald Lu & Partners. The panel discussed "How Men Coach and What Women Want" and examined why many male mentors and sponsors help female protégés to build confidence instead of treating them like male proteges and helping them to learn the business.



Sister March

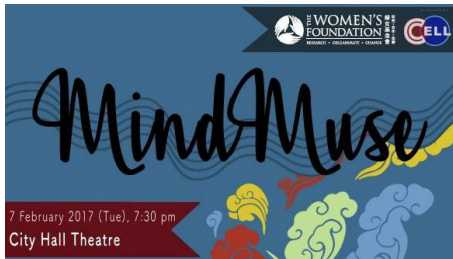
"Jia you" to all the HK women and girls who participated in a Sister March to the main Women's March in DC on Saturday. Many thanks to Prof Pascale Fung/HKUST for sharing her photos from the Sister March in Macau!



Money Month: Hong Kong's First Territory-Wide Financial Education Campaign

TWF is proud to support Money Month, an initiative run by the Investor Education Centre under the Hong Kong Strategy for Financial Literacy to raise awareness of the benefits of financial education. From February 18 to 19, Money Month's Education Fair will offer fun learning experiences on various money management topics. Two of our Financial Literacy and Employability Training Programme ambassadors will share their money saving strategies at the February 18 sharing session. Click [here](#) to learn more about the campaign.

SUPPORT TWF!



Buy Your Tickets for MindMuse: A Charity Concert In Aid of Girls & STEM

Join us for a night of wonderful music in aid of girls and STEM organised by CELL (Community Engagement in Learning and Living), a student-run organisation seeking to bridge social gaps and empower the underprivileged in Hong Kong. The brainchild of Misha Fischer, a 15 year old student at GSIS, the concert will feature performances by Misha herself, along with Warren Lee, Lorenzo Iosco and Tae-Mi Song.

DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2017

TIME: From 7.30 p.m.

VENUE: City Hall Theatre, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central

TICKETS (@HK\$200pp) are available [here](#) - Keyword Search: MindMuse.



TWF Mischa Pins

To raise funds for our programmes, TWF is selling pins, specially designed for TWF by Michelle Lai - MISCHA founder. The beautiful black and gold enamelled pins featuring MISCHA's signature design can be purchased at TWF and partner events for HK\$50. We are looking for volunteers to help us with selling pins within their organisations and networks. Please contact Stephanie Ko at stephanie.ko@twfhk.org to find out more.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Our top picks for recommended reading and listening on the key trends and breaking stories about women and gender:

- [Women Know When Negotiating Isn't Worth It](#) (The Atlantic)
- [Tech's Gender Pay Gap Hits Younger Women Hardest](#) (Fortune)
- [Ashley Judd on How to Put an End to Online Gender Violence](#) (TIME)
- ['Manbassadors': Male MBAs Aim To Put An End To Sexism At Work](#) (Financial Times)
- [Red flags, Rulers and Ropes: Creative Approaches To Teaching Gender Equality](#) (The Guardian)
- [Meet The Chinese Investor Who Says Female Bosses Are Bad For Business](#) (SCMP)
- [Obama's Recommended Reading List For His Daughter Includes Feminist Classics](#) (Quartz)



9A Chun Wo Commercial Centre, 23-29 Wing Wo Street, Sheung Wan
E: info@twfhk.org | W: twfhk.org | T: +852-2592-8265 | F: +852-2592-8264

You received this e-mail because you subscribed to The Women's Foundation database.
To unsubscribe, please click [here](#).