

EVENTS | PROGRAMMES | CEO BLOG

Dear TWF friends

This week we pay tribute to the First Ladies of China and the US who both recently made widely reported public speeches about women's empowerment and girls' education.

First, [Peng Liyuan](#), the wife of President Xi Jinping and one of UNESCO's Special Envoys for the Advancement of Girls' and Women's Education, delivered a speech at the Global Education First Initiative event at the United Nations in New York. She included a touching tribute to her father who established a local night school in their small village in China to teach villagers how to read the newspaper and write their names. In her words, "Education is about women and girls. It is important for girls to go to school because they will become their children's first teachers someday. But women still account for over half of the world's poor and 60 per cent of adults who cannot read. Education is crucial in addressing such inequalities." This resonates very strongly with TWF where our Life Skills and T.E.E.N. Programmes for Adolescent Girls and Boys and our Financial Literacy & Employability Programme for Marginalised Women are all about providing women and girls from under-privileged backgrounds with the skills they need to achieve their full potential.

In the same week, speaking to an audience of girls at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, [Michelle Obama](#) said, "If I had worried about who liked me and who thought I was cute when I was your age, I wouldn't be married to the President of the United States." The problem that girls are facing in developed countries and secular states are of course very different to the barriers imposed by poverty and religion. A large part of the issue for teen girls like the ones in Harlem are societal mores that suggest that being smart is not the goal. Just consider the barrage of media images that objectify and hyper sexualise women and girls and the pressure on young girls to be liked on social media. Like Mrs Obama, at TWF we think that often what undercuts girls' ability to focus on school is a culture that wants to make them grow up too quickly.

Two different leading ladies but two very compelling speeches which are well worth watching in full!

Warm regards

Su-Mei Thompson
CEO, The Women's Foundation

TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES**Positive Parenting Workshop in Yuen Long**

Last Saturday, TWF's Deputy ED Rita Ching delivered a workshop on positive parenting to parents from Yuen Long Merchants Association Secondary School. Drawing on her rich experience of providing guidance to young people through our signature T.E.E.N. Programme and Life Skills Programme, Rita shared the importance of positive communication and the value of praise in parenting.

**Financial Literacy Programme Community Trainings Underway!**

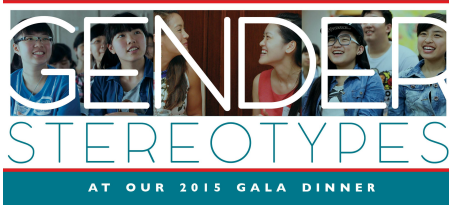
For the last few years, in partnership with grassroots women's NGOs, TWF has been training high potential marginalised women to become Ambassadors for our Financial Literacy Training Programme. The Ambassadors transfer their knowledge and skills to their peers through Community Training Workshops which TWF oversees. Yesterday saw the launch of a new 20-hour cycle of Community Training at Yan Oi Tong for New Arrival women from Mainland China.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION INVITES YOU TO
CHALLENGE

Gala Dinner 2015

DATE: Thursday, October 29, 2015
TIME: 7.30 – 11.00 p.m.



VENUE: The Conrad Hotel, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Madeline Di Nonno, CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media

For inquiries regarding sponsorship and table/ticket sales, click [here](#) or contact Stephanie.Poon@twfhk.org

EXTERNAL EVENTS

TWF is delighted to be supporting the following events:

OCTOBER 13: Catalyst's free 4-week course, [Inclusive Leadership Training: Maximizing Work-Life for Your Success](#)

OCTOBER 19: JOYCE Creative Salon [Objects of Desire: Fashion, Creation and Innovation Reconsidered](#) Panel Discussion

NOVEMBER 6: AMCHAM 12th Annual [Women of Influence Conference and Awards](#)

NOVEMBER 9-12: Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Smith College [Leadership Program for Women](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

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

- [Japan's Government Offered Companies Money to Promote Women - And Not One Took It](#) (The Atlantic)
- [Nearly Half Of Female Top Execs Say Being A Woman Has Held Them Back](#) (Fortune)
- [Rachel Cusk's Medea: A Lesson In Gender Politics Ancient And Modern, Onstage And Off](#) (The Guardian)
- [Six Simple Steps To Get More Women On Boards](#) (The National Business Review)
- [Young, Male And Feminist - If Only There Were More Of Them](#) (The Guardian)
- ['Pretty Curious' STEM Campaign Criticised For 'Sexist' Name](#) (Wired)

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