



EVENTS | PROGRAMMES | CEO BLOG

Dear Lisa

Pope Francis made the headlines last week after he held a town hall meeting with the heads of 900 women's religious orders and appeared to agree to consider the possibility of female deacons. At TWF, we hope he will follow through - the Catholic church does not ordain women as clergy and has been a male bastion for too long. As Katharine Keneally, a self confessed Catholic feminist, wrote in the Guardian to the Pope: "Until women are included on our own merits, ordained as priests and bishops in the church, you head up a sexist institution where equality is denied, where talents are unused, theology is flawed and ministry is left undone".

The Catholic church is not alone of course - other religions have also been reluctant to open their leadership ranks to women. This Weekend's FT carried a profile of Asma Bhol, an imaamah or female imam who leads Friday prayers at the Inclusive Mosque Initiative in London which welcomes people of any gender, sexuality or minority on equal terms. As the FT notes, the Koran doesn't specifically say anything about whether or not women can be imaamahs. In practice, the current mainstream view in Muslim communities is that it's fine for a woman to lead prayers for other women but a woman leading a mixed congregation in prayer tends to make some people uncomfortable. As Asma says, she has learnt to accept not being accepted.

Closer to home, St John's Cathedral has two female reverends - Catherine Graham, the Cathedral Chaplain, and Jenny Nam who was the first Chinese woman to be ordained a deacon in the Anglican Church of Canada 30 years ago.

In a world where so much violence against women - from honour killings to female genital mutilation to arranged child marriages - continues to be condoned in the name of religion, we hope that by women having a greater voice in the review of the content and application of religious codes, these will finally be reformed to bring them in line with current societal norms that women are not chattels and women can be just as effective as men as leaders.

As with any topic, we would love to hear your views. Please write to me at su-mei.thompson@twfhk.org.

PS Speaking of male bastions, TWF is delighted to present a panel of [leading women from the wine industry](#) on May 25, which will be followed by a tasting of some of California's most celebrated labels. Please join us for what promises to be an inspirational, educational and enjoyable evening.

Warm regards

Su-Mei Thompson
CEO, The Women's Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING YOUR LEADERSHIP STRENGTHS

CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES



Dr Ron Brown on How To Unleash Your Power and Leadership

TWF and AAJA are delighted to present a talk on unleashing your power and leadership by Dr Ron Brown AKA the Career Whisperer and renowned expert in leadership development. One lucky participant will also win a bespoke business outfit from couturier Isabella Wren.

DATE: Monday, May 23, 2016

TIME: 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.

VENUE: Sky Lounge, 49th floor, Upper House, Pacific Place, 88, Queensway, Admiralty

[Register Now](#)



Leading Women in Wine: Discussion and Tasting

TWF is delighted to invite you to a panel discussion featuring some of the most influential women in the global wine industry including Caroline Beteta/Visit California, Sarah Jane Evans MV/Institute of Masters of Wine, Karen MacNeil/The Wine Bible, Debra Meiburg/Meiburg Wine Media and Sarah Kemp/Decanter. Attendees will also enjoy a post-panel tasting of leading Californian wines.

DATE: Wednesday, May 25, 2016

TIME: 6.00 - 8.30 p.m.

VENUE: EY, 22/F CITIC Tower, 1 Tim Mei



Secrets to Success by Helen Zhu, Head of China Equities, BlackRock

TWF is delighted to present the next event in our not-to-be missed Secrets to Success series featuring outstanding female leaders sharing their firsthand experience, insights and advice. Helen will talk about her professional journey which spans senior roles at ABN AMRO, Goldman and BlackRock, and her tips for balancing a busy career while raising four young children.

DATE: Thursday, June 2, 2016

TIME: 12.00 - 2.00 p.m.

VENUE: 8/F, KPMG, Prince's Building, Central
[Register Now](#)

TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



TWF at Cannes!

TWF CEO, Su-Mei, spoke as part of a Kering-sponsored Women in Motion panel at Cannes yesterday about TWF's new documentary "She Objects", alongside Liza Azuelos, Salma Hayek Pinault and Zainab Salbi. Click [here](#) for coverage of the panel and [here](#) for an article on Sunday night's dinner honouring Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon. Click [here](#) to view all the Women in Motion talks and events.



She Objects Media Literacy Workshop

Last Wednesday, 200 F1 to F3 students from Queen Elizabeth School participated in a media literacy workshop led by CUHK in partnership with TWF. The students took turns to lead the forum and group discussions which explored the portrayal of women in the media and teen boys' and girls' identity and self-esteem.



TWF Latest Cambridge Scholarship Recipient

TWF is delighted to announce that our fourth scholarship recipient is Eliz Wong who will pursue the M Phil in Gender Studies at Cambridge starting this Fall. Congratulations Eliz!

TWF IN THE NEWS



TWF Research & Advocacy Manager, Lisa Moore, was quoted in the SCMP's recent [article](#) benchmarking Hong Kong maternity and paternity leave benefits against global standards.

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.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

TWF is delighted to be supporting the following events:

MAY 19: [The Art of Choosing](#) - Evening cocktail event organised by AUW featuring Professor Sheena Iyengar from Columbia University.

MAY 26: Hogan Lovells presents the latest event in its Breaking Barriers series: a lunchtime panel on [protecting, advancing and empowering women](#). Panellists include HKU President - Peter Mathieson, US Consul General - Clifford Hart, ESF Chief Executive - Belinda Greer, Head of Legal for Liberty Asia - Archana Kotecha and Associate General Counsel and Director at BAML - Heather McCann. The panel will be moderated by TWF CEO - Su-Mei Thompson.

WHAT WE'RE READING

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

- [Head Of UN Women Discusses Empowerment And Her Mission To Stop Violence And Inequality](#) (SCMP)
- [The Changing Face Of Women's Political Participation In The Middle East](#) (The Washington Post)
- [How Can The World Improve The Lives of Women And Girls By 2030?](#) (Thomson Reuters Foundation)
- [Americans Don't Realize How Big The Gender Leadership Gap Really Is](#) (Fast Company)
- [The Sex Educators Fighting Gender Inequality In Myanmar](#) (Southeast Asia Globe)

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