


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

Dear TWF friends

*"It was a defining moment, especially for young women, proving that a woman could work and have a baby in the highest and most challenging leadership positions" – Benazir Bhutto, late Pakistani Prime Minister (in reference to her own pregnancy while in office).*

Since coming into office last October, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has marked many milestones; one being that she is the world's youngest female leader to date. And when she welcomed her baby girl last Thursday, June 21, she became the second head of government to give birth while in office — a precedent set by Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto in 1990.

But unlike Bhutto, who, due to political threats [hid](#) her pregnancy and delivery from the public and returned to work the day after giving birth, Ardern publicly announced that she was expecting a child, and is currently taking 6-weeks leave, making her the first world leader to [take](#) maternity leave. "I am not the first woman to multi-task. I am not the first woman to work and have a baby," she [said](#) in January. When she returns to work in August, her partner, Clarke Gayford, will be the primary caregiver of their household. The couple has received praise from many, [including](#) former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, for their "positive role modelling for the empowerment of women and for gender equality."

Earlier this year, another female politician – and her baby – made history. In April, Tammy Duckworth became the first US senator to not only give birth while holding office, but also the first legislator to bring a baby to [vote](#) on the Senate floor, thanks to a bill she proposed to better accommodate new parents. Like Duckworth, Ardern has also been instrumental in pushing crucial policy changes for working parents. In early November, days after she was sworn in, Ardern announced an incremental increase in New Zealand's parental leave: from 18 to 22 weeks starting July 1, extending to 26 weeks in 2020.

In contrast, women in Hong Kong are entitled to 10 weeks of maternity leave at 80% pay. This falls behind the global 14-week standard, and has remained unchanged for two decades. And the length of our paternity leave? A paltry 3 days, which the government proposed to modestly [extend](#) to 5 days.

TWF has called for the government to expand Hong Kong's maternity leave entitlement. A number of countries serve as models for us, such as Singapore and France – both of which grant 16 weeks of maternity leave – or the UK, which provides 50 weeks of parental leave. Looking longer term, we believe maternity leave and paternity leave should be replaced with parental leave, enabling same-sex or heterosexual parents the choice of who stays home to be the primary caregiver.

It is often said that gender equality begins at home, but the workplace – from the cubicle to the cabinet—can be an instrumental agent of change at home and in society at large.

Get in touch at [Fiona.Nott@twfhk.org](mailto:Fiona.Nott@twfhk.org).

Have a great week.

Fiona Nott  
CEO, The Women's Foundation

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### TWF Gala Dinner 2018 – Now Selling!

Mark your calendars for TWF's 2018 Gala Dinner, sponsored by Bloomberg!

**Date:** Wednesday, October 24, 2018

**Time:** From 7.00pm

**Venue:** JW Marriott Hong Kong, Pacific Place.

Tables and tickets are now on sale. Please contact [riva@twfhk.org](mailto:riva@twfhk.org) for sponsorship enquiries.



### Engaging Men in #MeToo

TWF invites you to join us as we explore men's engagement with the #MeToo movement in Hong Kong, kindly hosted by Thomson Reuters. We will be discussing men's reactions and actions to #MeToo both at work and outside of work as the last of three events to engage the community in conversations around sexual harassment and sexual assault in Hong Kong. Moderated by

Fiona Nott | TWF, speakers include: Cynthia Chung | Deacons, Chip Tsao | Columnist, Broadcaster, Writer and Adrian Warr | Edelman, Alexander Prout | Head of Asset Management APAC, Deutsche Bank.

**Event details**

**Date:** Thursday, June 28, 2018

**Time:** 8.15-9.30am (8.00am registration)

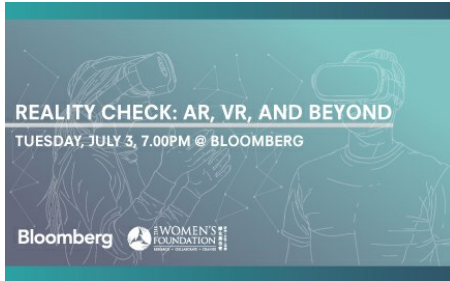
**Venue:** Thomson Reuters, 18/F, ICBC Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central

\*light breakfast will be provided courtesy of Thomson Reuters

For inquiries, please contact Lisa Moore at

[Lisa.Moore@twfhk.org](mailto:Lisa.Moore@twfhk.org).

Register [here](#).



**Reality Check: AR, VR, and Beyond**

Join Bloomberg and TWF for a dynamic evening of exploring the mind-boggling ways in which AR, VR and other reality-bending technologies are changing our world from children's literacy and marketing to medicine, gaming and more. This is the fourth event in our Leading Women in Futurism Series.

Speakers include: Michelle Chan | FinTech Association AI Committee, Anita Fu | Salesforce, Dorothy Suen | Microsoft, and Tracy Tsang | Emerging Technology, Innovation & Creative Consultant.

**Date:** Tuesday, July 3, 2018

**Time:** 7.00-8.30pm

**Venue:** Bloomberg Auditorium, 27/F, Cheung Kong Center

Refreshments will be provided courtesy of Bloomberg. Please note, the target audience for this Series is upper secondary school and university students, and young professionals with 0-5 years of work experience.

Register [here](#).



**Girls Go Tech Closing Ceremony**

TWF invites you to celebrate the progress of engaging girls in STEM Education. The event is the highlight of GGT 2017/18, and will showcase key success factors in promoting STEM education among local schools through the School Awards sponsored by Goldman Sachs. The event will also feature an Inter-school Expo to showcase GGT participants' learning outcomes, as well as our latest Study on "Gender Differences in Choosing STEM Subjects at Secondary School and University in Hong Kong".

**Date:** July 4, 2018 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00pm (Reception will start at 12:30pm)

**Venue:** City University of Hong Kong

For inquiries, please contact Betty Tam at

[Betty.Tam@twfhk.org](mailto:Betty.Tam@twfhk.org).

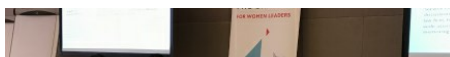
Register [here](#).

**TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES**



**T.E.E.N. Programme - BBS Training Camp**

Last week, the new cohort of Big Brothers & Sisters participated in a two-day training camp. Through various team building activities, the twelve local undergraduates overcame challenges and built a supportive connection with each other. They also met with our T.E.E.N. Alumni, who shared experiences and insights, in preparation for upcoming events of the T.E.E.N. Programme 2018-2019.



**Mentoring Programme - Peer Panels: Intrapreneurship**



Last Wednesday, our mentors and protégés took part in the second Peer Panels event organised by protégés, Chelsea Borchers, Flora Yu, Kay Ho, and mentor, Joanna Zadkovich. The panellists, Angelyn Lim, Ella Chan and Icar Castro shared their experience in implementing wide scale changes within their company, the setbacks they faced and how to effectively create a roadmap to action and get your ideas heard in your organisation. Huge thanks to AIA for hosting.



### Mentoring Programme 2018-19 Info Sessions

This July, TWF will launch the tenth year of our highly acclaimed Mentoring Programme for Women Leaders. Every year, this best-in-class programme matches 50 high potential protégés with 50 successful mentors. All interested applicants must attend an Information Session to find out more about the Programme curriculum and content, the commitment required of participants, and the selection and pairing process.

Please click [here](#) for the list of sessions.

Attendance at one session is a compulsory component of the application process. Please register for ONE session only.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



### TWF CEO Speaks at South African Consulate 'Albertina Sisulu Women of Fortitude' Event

Last Saturday, June 23, TWF CEO Fiona Nott spoke on a panel at the Woman of Fortitude Conference in honour of Albertina Sisulu's centenary, hosted by the South African consulate. Panellists shared life lessons from their professional and personal experiences, relating to team leadership; ambition, self-development and family; leading and living through change; the price of promotion and the currency of integrity; and women's leadership. A huge thank you to the organisers for donating proceeds raised from a raffle at the conference to TWF.



### TWF CEO quoted in the SCMP on gender inequality in the workplace

On Monday, TWF CEO Fiona Nott commented on Hong Kong's barrier's to achieving gender equality in the SCMP article "Saudi Arabia's treatment of women is still a travesty despite end of driving ban, but Hong Kong has no grounds to gloat". Click [here](#) to read the full article.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

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

- [The age of patriarchy: how an unfashionable idea became a rallying cry for feminism today](#) (The Guardian)
- [Gender equality, sensitivity can be taught, Haryana schools show](#) (Live Mint)
- [The world's biggest advertiser wants women to produce half of its ads](#) (CNN)

- [5 Reasons The 'Best CEOs For Women' Are All Men](#) (Forbes)
- [An Investor Wants Wall Street to Get Serious About Gender Equality](#) (Bloomberg)
- [Chinese uni teaches women to be 'perfect' in era of President Xi](#) (Sydney Morning Herald)

We are following the latest developments on combatting sexual harassment. Key reports below:

- [Sexual harassment rife in Hong Kong churches, survey suggests](#) (SCMP)
- [It's not always clear what constitutes sexual harassment. Use this tool to navigate the gray areas](#) (HBR)
- [Australia launches national inquiry into sexual harassment](#) (BBC)
- [Ashley Judd sees a role for forgiving men in #MeToo](#) (QZ)
- [In the Age of #MeToo, Anthony Bourdain Proved How to Be a Male Ally](#) (Men's Health)
- [Workplace sex harassment laws under spotlight in #MeToo era](#) (Financial Review)
- [Want To End Sexual Harassment? Landmark Study Finds Ousting 'Bad Men' Isn't Enough](#) (Huffington Post)

9A Chun Wo Commercial Centre, 23-29 Wing Wo Street, Sheung Wan  
E: [info@twfhk.org](mailto:info@twfhk.org) | W: [twfhk.org](http://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](#).