



EVENTS | PROGRAMMES | CEO BLOG

Dear TWF friends

"Even if I am a girl, even if people think I can't do it, I should not lose hope" – Malala Yousafzai, activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate

This Thursday, October 11, we will be celebrating the International Day of the Girl. Declared by the United Nations in 2012, it recognises girls' rights and promote empowerment; whilst simultaneously highlighting the unique challenges they face. And girls face many challenges - [one in three](#) women and girls experience violence in their lifetime. That is one too many. Worldwide, 750 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday, which often results in early pregnancy and social isolation, and limits their opportunities to participate in daily life activities.

This year's [theme](#) is "With Her: A Skilled GirlForce," which aims to bring attention to girls' needs and opportunities to acquire skills and education to prepare them for employability.

There are 1.1 billion girls in the world, most of whom face gender discrimination throughout their lives. Around 600 million adolescent girls will [enter](#) the workforce in the next decade, but many are not learning skills that will prepare them to transition from school to work, secure decent jobs, and pursue aspiring careers.

Despite the relative freedom and opportunities that girls have here in Hong Kong compared to many places around the world, they still face significant barriers to achieving full equality. A [study](#) on Hong Kong's STEM education reveals persistent gender stereotyping that discourages girls from choosing and staying in STEM fields. Meanwhile, the objectification of women prevalent in the media has been linked to eating disorders, self-esteem issues for girls, violence against women and girls, and, ultimately, the erosion of female ambition. When young women enter the workforce, they face equally formidable challenges such as pay inequality, unconscious biases, and a lack of family friendly policies, making their career ascents difficult.

One of the key pillars that runs throughout TWF's work is challenging gender stereotypes. For example, in our documentary She Objects, we call on the media and the public to reflect on the negative impact of women's portrayal in the media. Our Girls Go Tech Programme seeks to inspire girls to consider STEM as viable academic and career options while our T.E.E.N. Programme for boys and girls focuses on challenging gender stereotypes and strives to educate participants on gender equality. To listen to one of our TEEN's stories and how the Programme helped her overcome gender-related challenges, listen to last week's [interview](#) on RTHK with TWF Senior Manager Jill Chung and TWF TEEN Alumna Icy Chow.

Let's work to keep fighting gender discrimination and stereotypes at home, in schools, in public and at work. Together, we can create a formidable force of girl power, empowered to boldly pursue their dreams and ambitions.

Get in touch at Fiona.Nott@twfhk.org.

Have a great week.

Fiona Nott
CEO, The Women's Foundation

P.S. BREAKING NEWS: In this morning's Policy Address, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced a number of positive developments for women in the territory including the proposal to extend maternity leave from 10 weeks to 14 weeks as well as paternity leave from 3 days to 5 days. Mrs Lam also issued a strong call on all listed companies to appoint more female board directors. These issues have been key focuses of TWF's advocacy efforts over the past few years and we are delighted to see progress in this regard. Click [here](#) to read the full policy address. Watch this space for more TWF analysis on the Policy Address.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TWF Gala – Few Seats Remain!**

Only a few seats remain for our annual Gala Dinner! We are thrilled to be featuring **Laura Zelenko**, Bloomberg News' Senior Executive Editor for Diversity, Talent, Standards and Training and leader of the global "New Voices" campaign at Bloomberg News; video remarks by **Arianna Huffington**, Founder of the Huffington Post and Founder & CEO of Thrive Global; and our **TWF Male Allies** in conversation about their groundbreaking efforts to drive gender equality in Hong Kong. A big thank you to our Title Sponsor, Bloomberg; and our Associate Sponsors, Cathay Pacific and Manulife.

Please contact riva@twfhk.org for enquiries on tickets.

Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2018

Time: From 7.00pm

Venue: JW Marriott Hong Kong, Pacific Place

TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



Girls Go Tech Promotion Session

Last Thursday, we continued our third promotion session at Carmel Alison Lam Foundation Secondary School. 120 girls from Form 1 and 2, spent an enjoyable time exploring the possibilities of choosing to pursue a STEM career in the future. Students were delighted to participate in the GGT workshop playing with smart devices powered by micro:bit during the interactive demonstration.



Financial Literacy and Employability Training Programme Update

Last week, we held our second quarterly review meeting with 14 participants who completed our Financial Literacy and Employability Training Programme with our NGO partner HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre. We are delighted to hear more than half of the participants achieved their saving goals through the Programme's financial literacy training.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



TWF CEO on RTHK's Backchat

This past Monday, TWF CEO Fiona Nott spoke on RTHK's Backchat alongside Peter Guy | SCMP, Linda Wong | ACSVAW, and Julie Yoon | Democrats Abroad HK. Hosted by Hugh Chiverton and Mike Rowse the discussion explored the impact of the #MeToo movement and where progress still needs to be made. Tune in to the discussion [here](#).



T.E.E.N. Programme Featured on RTHK

Last Friday, TWF Senior Programme Manager Jill Chung and T.E.E.N. Alumna and Youth Mentor, Icy Chow, were featured on RTHK's Agender Cafe to discuss TWF's T.E.E.N. Programme, covering what sorts of challenges today's teens are facing, the type of skills they need to thrive and the importance of gender equality. Tune in [here](#) to listen to the full episode. Thanks Karen Marzo and Noreen Mir for inviting us on the show!

South China Morning Post EDITION HONG KONG

HONG KONG ECONOMY

HK CHINA ASIA WORLD COMMENT BUSINESS TECH LIFE CULTURE SPORT WEE IN ASIA POST TAG STYLE TV

News / Hong Kong / Hong Kong economy

Parenting: newborns to toddlers

Maternity leave in Hong Kong: can Chief Executive Carrie Lam bring city in line with Singapore and South Korea without riling the business community?

With the city leader set to allow women to take 14 weeks off after giving birth, employers say the latest pro-labour policy will cause them major headaches

PUBLISHED: Friday, 05 October, 2018, 11:17am
UPDATED: Tuesday, 09 October, 2018, 2:06pm

COMMENTS: 02

TWF CEO Quoted in SCMP on Maternity Leave

Last Friday, TWF CEO Fiona Nott was quoted in SCMP's feature entitled "Maternity leave in Hong Kong: can Chief Executive Carrie Lam bring city in line with Singapore and South Korea without riling the business community?" Fiona commented on how Hong Kong lags behind other world cities when it comes to family leave policies and the importance of gender diversity in the workplace. Read the full article [here](#).

Gender diversity: not a woman's issue

Moderator
Miguel Zaldívar, Regional Chief Executive – Asia Pacific & Middle East, Hogan Lovells

TWF CEO Joins Hogan Lovells on Gender Diversity Panel

On September 12, TWF CEO Fiona Nott spoke on a "Gender Diversity: Not a Woman's Issue"



panel as part of the Global Financial Institution Summit Series Asia. Moderated by Miguel Zaldivar | Hogan Lovells, other panellists included Philip May | Goldman Sachs and Catherine Stemp | Goldman Sachs. They discussed the business case for gender diversity, the importance of men in championing gender diversity, and some of the challenges women face in the workplace.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Join Step Challenge to Support Girls Go Tech

Get active in November! Please join the Hong Kong Computer Society's FACE Club charity event "Step Challenge" to raise funds for TWF's Girls Go Tech Programme (GGT).

Step Challenge is a month-long activity challenge beginning November 1. The person with the highest number of steps at the end of the 30-day challenge will take home an Xbox! Every step counts as all proceeds raised go to GGT. Step up to the challenge for a worthwhile cause [now!](#)



Ladies Who Tech

TWF is pleased to support a collaboration between Ladies Who Tech and PwC Hong Kong looking at Tech4Good. The evening will discuss several key questions: How can we increase the social benefits of technology while reducing its risks? Should there be an adopted code of ethics for technology creators and distributors? When and what should startups consider during product and service development?

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Time: 6.30-9.00pm

Venue: PwC Experience Centre - 19/F East Town Building, 41 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai

To register, click [here](#).

Morgan Stanley



Return To Work 2019

Return to Work 2019 in Hong Kong:
You left the workforce and put your career on hold.
Now it's time to start thinking about you again.

Morgan Stanley Return to Work 2019

TWF is proud to support Morgan Stanley's Return to Work programme, an opportunity for women to re-enter the workforce. Return to Work is a paid 12-week internship. Participants are placed in roles based on their skills and interests, working with colleagues and senior leaders throughout the firm. On completion of the internship, participants may receive an offer of employment. Application deadline is October 12. For more information, please click [here](#).



AmCham's 15th Annual Women of Influence Conference & Awards

TWF is proud to support the AmCham Women of Influence Conference and Awards. The Conference will focus on what it means to have influence and impact through the stories and experiences of key global and local leaders as well as sharing the secrets on how to make a personal impact and the cultural factors that impact the progression of women in corporate environments. The heart of the event celebrates the announcement of the Awards, with nine award categories recognising seven high-achieving women, one man who has demonstrated support for the advancement of women and one outstanding company for women.

Date: Friday, November 16, 2018

Time: 8.00am-2.30pm

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong
Register [here](#).



MWM Wine School

MWM Wine School, by Debra Meiburg MW offers the ideal blend of wine fundamentals



and fun to fuel your enjoyment and up your wine IQ. Spend a Saturday afternoon (or several depending on which course you pick) in their wine studio, with engaging teachers, unique workshops and an active, passionate alumni community. Join the HalloWINE party this month to taste over 200 different bottles of wine and learn more about the school. Visit the [webpage](#) for more information and to sign up for the party.

OPENINGS AT TWF

Development Officer Opening

TWF is seeking a full-time Development Officer to join its dynamic team to plan and execute its fundraising initiatives, cultivate new sponsors and partners, manage its grant applications and explore other innovative approaches to fundraising. Please click [here](#) for the job description. Applications should be received by October 30.

Senior Manager / Manager Pipeline Initiatives Opening

TWF is seeking a full-time Senior Manager/Manager Pipeline Initiatives to join its dynamic team to develop, manage and execute a range of TWF's pipeline related programmes, partnerships and initiatives as well as cultivate new partners and stakeholders. Please click [here](#) for the job description. Applications should be received by October 30.

WHAT WE'RE READING

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

- [Stop lagging behind, Hong Kong, it's high time to extend maternity leave](#) (SCMP)
- [South Korean women's anger about spycam porn 'has reached its limit', say protesters](#) (SCMP)
- [Gender stereotypes begin at age 10](#) (Medical Xpress)
- [Why Didn't You Believe Her?](#) (Stuff Mom Never Told You- Podcast)
- [Mothers in Japan Face Hurdles Returning to Work](#) (Bloomberg)
- [Facebook首席營運長 反思工作家庭:女性常低估自己](#) (HK01)
- [小變革 能否改善飲食界性別不平等?](#) (HK01)

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

- [Nobel peace prize goes to campaigners against sexual violence](#) (The Guardian)
- [A Tale of Two #MeToos in Hong Kong and Singapore Athletics](#) (SCMP)
- [Study: Lingerin illnesses can trouble women for years after assault, workplace harassment](#) (Washington Post)
- [What difference has #MeToo made to Australian working women, really?](#) (Sydney Morning Herald)
- [Bollywood actress Dutta takes #MeToo claims to police](#) (SCMP)
- [Why don't women report alleged abuse? Just look at the Kavanaugh saga](#) (Sydney Morning Herald)

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](#).