

Dear TWF friends



Taking Action Matters

As we get ready for our Gala Dinner next Thursday under the theme of 'The Power of Togetherness', it is a good time to take a step back and note global developments in gender equality.

Here are three encouraging areas:

Historic female firsts: Hong Kong welcomes its first female head of the Customs and Excise Department. In the Middle East, Egypt's State Council has just sworn in its first-ever batch of female judges to the State Council, one of the country's main judicial bodies. At TWF, we know that equal numbers of women and men at senior levels of decision-making matters and it is why advancing women leaders remains a core pillar of our work. It influences the types of issues discussed and policies developed, the results of which cascade down into other areas of society.

Progress for women's reproductive rights in Mexico: Mexico's Supreme Court unanimously ruled in a case regarding a state law, that criminal penalties for terminating pregnancies are unconstitutional. In the rationale for the ruling, the judges noted that women and other individuals able to gestate should have the right to make decisions and that laws criminalising abortion primarily punish the poorest and most marginalised populations. Lawyers and activists believe the decision sets a precedent and will be applicable across the country. This ruling aligns with movements elsewhere in the region, with Argentina's legalisation of abortion earlier in the year and Columbia soon to be addressing this issue as well. At TWF, we believe in the safety, dignity and bodily autonomy of all women and look forward to monitoring further developments.

[Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENT



TWF Gala Dinner 2021 - Sold Out!

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response to our in-person Gala Dinner on **November 4, 2021**, generously supported by title sponsor, **Bloomberg**, and associate sponsors, **Citi** and **Facebook**.

Whilst tables are sold out, **please stay tuned for more information on how you can support our Gala Dinner 2021!**

We are delighted to announce that our panel, titled 'The Power of Togetherness', will feature esteemed speakers including, **Dr Trisha Leahy** PhD, JD, SBS, BBS, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Sports Institute; **Dr Brenda Alegre**, Lecturer, University of Hong Kong; Board Member, ILGA Asia and STRAP, **Megan Lam**, CEO and Co-Founder, Neurum Health; moderated by **Adrian Warr**, CEO Southeast Asia, Edelman; Male Allies Co-Chair, TWF.



#SheMeansBusiness 5th Anniversary

This Monday, we celebrated our #SheMeansBusiness 5th Anniversary with Facebook and Jervois One. In celebration of the anniversary, our Principal Adviser Rita Ching joined a panel discussion to discuss the gender gap in the digital economy and the importance of empowering women and girls to promote gender equality. Rita spoke alongside Alice Lee | Storyteller and Becky Ho | Hahahafloirist, moderated by Winnie Tsui | Facebook, to discuss how to encourage more women to become entrepreneurs in Hong Kong. Warmest congratulations to our long-standing partner Facebook on the anniversary and we look forward to continuing to advance women entrepreneurs and achieving many more brilliant milestones to come.

Male Allies Influencer Circles - Privilege

This October kickstarted our Male Allies Influencer Circles - our first in-person events in almost two years. Over 100 allies attended across eight circles all around Hong Kong Island. This session set the foundation for the Male Allies Initiative ahead by assessing and understanding their privilege and how to use it to be a better ally.

Thank you to our wonderful Influencer Circle Leads for facilitating these groups!



Mentoring Programme: Ice-breaker #3 - Being a Woman in Hong Kong

On October 21, TWF Research and Advocacy Director Lisa Moore facilitated the third icebreaker for the 2021-2022 cohort.

More than 60 participants joined this session to learn about the status of women in Hong Kong; and how and why it matters to all of us. Participants engaged in a series of discussions to explore gender equality issues in the workplace as well as share how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their work lives.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Societe Generale Returnship Programme in Asia Pacific

TWF is proud to support Societe Generale's new initiative to help professionals re-integrate into the workforce after an extended career break. It is designed for individuals who have been out of the workforce for more than 2 years and have minimum 8 years relevant professional experience prior to the break. The Societe Generale Returnship programme offers participants a 6-month paid working opportunity in several locations across Asia Pacific. During the programme, returners will fully integrate and work along Societe Generale teams, uplifting their skills and knowledge in a flexible yet empowering working environment.

AmCham Women of Influence Conference & Awards

TWF is pleased to support AmCham's 18th Annual Women of Influence Conference "Invest in all of Us" -- a series of events, conducted through virtual and in-person elements (Oct 23 - Nov 18), culminating with a new format and venue for their awards ceremony and celebration on November 18.



Some highlights include: Oct 23 [d.school Design Thinking Workshop](#); Nov 16 [Building a Dynamic Financial Legacy](#); and Nov 17 [Regaining your Resilience in Life and at Work](#).

Register for the awards ceremony [here](#) and use code **3NY1KC3Y** to enjoy member rates.



The Zubin Foundation Conference - What is the Status of Hong Kong's Ethnic Minorities?

TWF is pleased to support The Zubin Foundation's first-ever conference on racial inclusion titled, "What Is the Status of Hong Kong's Ethnic Minorities?". This inaugural conference will bring together stakeholders to engage on the lives of Hong Kong's ethnic minorities.

Tuesday, November 9
9.30am - 5.00pm
Holiday Inn Golden Mile, Tsim Sha Tsui

[Learn more about the conference and book your tickets now!](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

Gender Equality

- [An N.B.A. Female 'First' Hopes It's Not Such a Big Deal Soon](#) (NYT)
- [Miss France pageant faces lawsuit for requiring all contestants to be at least 5-foot-5, unmarried and child-free](#) (CNN)
- [Common stereotypes used in advertising for young unmarried women were not aspirational: Report](#) (Financial Express)
- [Why do pronouns matter to today's LGBTQ+ generation?](#) (Gay Times)
- [Dave Chapelle special spurs Netflix walkout; 'Trans lives matter'](#) (ABC)
- [Viva la vulva: why we need to talk about women's genitalia](#) (The Guardian)
- [Why elections matter: National child-care plan could create workplace gender equality](#) (The Conversation)

Sexual Violence & Harassment

- [Hong Kong models reveal sexual abuse in the private photo industry, from groping and harassment to blackmail for sexual favours](#) (SCMP)
- [Taiwan: deepfake pornographic video victims call for new laws against sexual violence in cyberspace](#) (Global Voices)
- ['Never their fault': Sexual violence workshop educates students, supports survivors](#) (The Pitt News)
- [Aged care staff urgently need training to report and prevent sexual assault](#) (The Conversation)

Masculinity

- [What is flexible masculinity and how can it aid wellbeing?](#) (happiful)
- [Madison Cawthorn calls for mothers to raise 'monster' men in terrifying speech against 'demasculation'](#) (Independent)

Board Diversity

- [This network seeks to promote gender equality in the Boards of Directors](#) (Entrepreneur)
- [More corporate directors agree action needed on board diversity](#) (Financial Management)

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