

PRESS RELEASE For immediate distribution:

Advancing Gender Equality: The Key to Hong Kong's Inclusive Growth
The upcoming Gender Equality Summit hosted by The Women's Foundation is a community initiative co-creating the future



Pictured: The last Gender Equality summit in 2019, which facilitated breakthrough conversations and action

For the benefits of gender equality to drive meaningful societal change, we need everyone to be involved, particularly those just starting their journey. The Women's Foundation's upcoming Gender Equality Summit: **Evolution through Exchange**, provides a vital platform for diverse voices to come together. Uniting a varied audience of approximately 300 thought leaders and changemakers, this meeting of minds marks the city as an incubator of progressive interchange on the regional and international stage.

Honouring 20 years of The Women's Foundation's operation in Hong Kong, the cross-sector event continues the organisation's mission – incubating the exchange of ideas, posing challenging questions, and ultimately driving meaningful action needed to co-create a Hong Kong where everyone thrives. Below are some of The Women's Foundation's achievements over the past two decades:

- 15,900+ underprivileged teens, their parents and teachers have been uplifted by our community outreach programmes
- 3,100+ secondary school girls have engaged with the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics because of the Girls Go Tech Programme

- 700+ male allies were encouraged to harness their collective influence in the name of advancing gender equality
- 1500 mentors and protégés have advanced their leadership skills through our best-in-class and cross-industry Mentoring Programme

Supported by lead sponsor Bloomberg, the **Evolution through Exchange** summit will commence on September 13, 2024, at HKEX Connect Hall. The summit welcomes attendees from non-profit organisations, businesses, academic institutions and the public sector. By providing a platform that reaches across demographics, the summit facilitates dialogues that might not happen in the outside world, encouraging the collaborative development of practical solutions to gender inequality.

In addition to celebrating the progress made in Hong Kong over the last 20 years, the summit will be vital in capturing actionable takeaways to further promote inclusivity and a brighter future for all in Hong Kong. After the summit, we will draw on the unique insights generated to create the **Hong Kong Gender Advocacy Map** – a first-of-its-kind guide laying out best practices, sparking new ideas, and encouraging collaborative, multi-stakeholder efforts.

Event Highlights

All confirmed speakers can be found on the website: <https://www.twfgendersummit.org/>

Evolution of the Workplace (Panel)

In the face of ongoing talent shortages, rapid technological developments, ageing demographics, and workforces with diverse needs, employers must think differently to attract, develop, and retain top talent. Speakers on the panel will discuss key employer considerations to address evolving workforce challenges and the role gender and inclusion play.

Redefining Leadership (Fireside chat)

This fireside chat will draw on learnings and insights from two highly successful female leaders, exploring various aspects of what defines leadership today and identifying essential leadership qualities needed to guide organisations through complexity.

Evolution of the Home (Panel)

This session focuses on the domestic sphere, examining changing gender roles, shifting gender expectations, and health taboos.

Exploring Masculinities (Fireside chat)

Globally, there's been a concerning rise in misogynistic ideologies, pushing back against progressive gender norms and shifting power dynamics. This session will explore multifaceted aspects of masculinity from gender-specific struggles facing men to violence against women - ultimately charting a course for a reimagined, inclusive conception of masculinity.

Evolution of Education (Minute Messages)

As we work to create a thriving society, Hong Kong must grapple with a range of sensitive yet crucial topics like comprehensive sex education, mental health support and dismantling systemic inequities. Speakers will respond with their ideas around a central question: What elements of education should be reimagined to foster a more inclusive, equitable society for all?

Evolution of Society (Panel)

Society's foundations continue to transform at an increasingly rapid rate. From the challenges of ageing populations to the rise of AI and other emerging technologies – this panel will explore how we can ensure equitable access and opportunities for people of all ages.

Event Schedule

Date:	13 September 2024 (Friday)
Time & Agenda:	2:00pm – 7:30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2:15pm–2:35pm Opening remarks from Fiona Nott, CEO, The Women's Foundation and Sian Hooper, Co-Head of HR APAC, Bloomberg• 2:40pm-3:30pm Evolution of the Workplace Panel & Redefining Leadership Fireside Chat• 3:30pm-4:30pm Coffee break with interactive activities• 4:30pm-5:10pm Evolution of the Home Panel, Exploring Masculinities Fireside Chat• 5:10pm-5:40pm Coffee break with interactive activities• 5:40pm-6:30pm Evolution of Education Minute Messages, Evolution of Society Panel, and closing remarks• 6:30pm-7:30pm Cocktail reception
Location:	HKEX Connect Hall, 1/F, One and Two Exchange Square, 8 Connaught Place, Central
Language:	English and Cantonese (with simultaneous interpretation available)

Quote from Sian Hooper, Co-Head of HR Asia Pacific, Bloomberg:

“At Bloomberg we believe that gender equality is not just a business imperative but also a critical driver of innovation and economic growth. That's why in addition to what we have done at Bloomberg, we are also supporting our partners including The Women's Foundation, and their work to advance gender equality. We look forward to meaningful and inspiring conversations at the Gender Equality Summit.”

Quote from Fiona Nott, CEO of The Women's Foundation:

“At The Women's Foundation, we know that positive, sustainable change involves bringing everyone together. For the past 20 years, we have witnessed firsthand the exceptional results that follow when individuals and organisations work diligently to progress gender equality. We hope our summit will help kickstart new conversations, connections and collaborations – igniting greater gender equality for all.”

About The Women's Foundation

The Women's Foundation is a Hong Kong registered not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong. TWF is focused on challenging gender stereotypes, increasing the number of women in decision-making and leadership roles, and empowering women in poverty through ground-breaking research, innovative and impactful community programmes, and education and advocacy.

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Media Enquiries

The Women's Foundation

Inti Tam

Head of Communications and Marketing

+852 6155-9020

Inti.Tam@twfhk.org

Golin

Agnes Po

Senior Manager, PR

+852 9601-9645

apo@golin.com