



EVENTS | PROGRAMMES | CEO BLOG

Dear Stephanie

In case you missed it, skincare brand SK-II recently launched a poignant [video](#) highlighting the societal pressure faced by unmarried Chinese women over 27 years of age, pejoratively dubbed "leftover" women. In just three days, the video attracted 2.7 million views.

In Mainland China, despite being highly educated and often professionally successful, "leftover" women have been described in the media as being worthless and undermining society's moral fabric. Their plight was captured by Leta Hong Fincher in her book "[Leftover Women: The Resurgence of Inequality](#)".

Unmarried Hong Kong women have also been touched by the same stigma. From the TVB series "Bride Wannabes" to the increase in the number of dating agencies specifically targeting women over 30, for many in Hong Kong society - women's identity is still intrinsically associated with their marital status.

At TWF, we applaud SK-II for tackling such a controversial issue and encouraging women to be confident in their life decisions. We think it is critically important that women embrace the concept of self-reliance, not just economically but in all aspects of life. We believe that women who lean in to life - by doing a job they enjoy, who have hobbies, who keep up with a robust network of family, friends and colleagues - have a better chance of sustained happiness and, should they choose to marry, of forging relationships with spouses or partners which are based on mutual respect. Any other approach leaves women potentially economically and emotionally vulnerable which has adverse consequences for women and for society as a whole.

Warm regards

Su-Mei Thompson
 CEO, The Women's Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS



Real Life Examples & Best Practices for Return to Work Programmes

Return to Work Programmes, Part One

TWF, Ellevate Hong Kong and Back to Work are delighted to present a two-part series on Real Life Examples & Best Practices for Return to Work Programmes. Part One will focus on the business rationale for adopting Return-To-Work programmes and hiring returnees.

DATE: Wednesday, April 13, 2016

TIME: 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.

VENUE: FDM, 2002-3, 20/F, Fairmont House, 8 Cotton Tree Drive, Admiralty

[Register Now](#)



TWF FIRESIDE CHAT

TAMARA LOHAN

Breakfast with Tamara Lohan AKA the 'Mrs' in Mr & Mrs Smith!

Join TWF for an inspiring breakfast with Tamara Lohan - Founder, CTO and one half of the couple behind Mr & Mrs Smith ([Mrandmrsmith.com](#)).

DATE: Friday, April 15, 2016

TIME: 8.15 - 9.30 a.m.

VENUE: Linklaters, 10/F, Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road, Central

[Register Now](#)



BRIEFING ON THE EOC'S DISCRIMINATION LAW REVIEW

PETER READING

Briefing on the EOC's Discrimination Law Review

TWF and Freshfields invite you to a briefing on the EOC's Discrimination Law Review by Peter Reading - EOC Senior Legal Counsel. Peter will discuss the comprehensive recommendations the EOC submitted to the government to modernise HK's existing anti-discrimination laws.

DATE: Friday, April 15, 2016

TIME: 12.00 - 2.00 p.m.

VENUE: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, 11/F,
Two Exchange Square, Central
[Register Now](#)



The Gender Pay Gap and Learnings from the UK

TWF and Simmons & Simmons are delighted to present a lunchtime discussion on the gender pay gap and learnings from the UK.

DATE: Thursday, April 21, 2016

TIME: 12.30 - 2.00 p.m.

VENUE: Simmons & Simmons, 13/F, One Pacific Place,
88 Queensway, Admiralty
[Register Now](#)



TWF Panel on Law as a Pathway to Success

TWF and Paul Hastings are delighted to present a panel on Alternative Legal Career Pathways to Success featuring Vivian Lam, partner at Paul Hastings, and three outstanding General Counsels from very different industry sectors: Simon Brookes/Telstra, Christine Wong/HKEx and Susan Sayers/HSBC.

DATE: Friday, April 22, 2016

TIME: 8.00 - 9.30 a.m.

VENUE: Central location, TBC
[Register Now](#)

TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



Mentoring Programme Leadership Training Workshop

Last week, more than 50 mentors and protégés from our Mentoring Programme enjoyed a leadership training workshop run by Alix Farquhar and Fraser Murray of Bridge.



TEEN & the Community

Last Saturday, Jeffrey Andrews - the first ethnic minority social worker in Hong Kong - gave an inspirational talk to our TEEN participants following their group community project presentations, which focused on issues surrounding Diversity & Inclusion in Hong Kong. These projects will also be later presented to their teachers and classmates at their respective schools.



TWF & HK Family Planning Association Financial Literacy Partnership

Our heartfelt thanks to HK FPA for partnering with TWF to provide Financial Literacy training to members of their local women's clubs.

These Ambassadors have in turn delivered training to women in Lam Tin, Ma On Shan, Sheung Shui, Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun. Read the transformative stories of the Ambassadors [here](#) [Chinese only].

OPENINGS AT TWF - AND ELSEWHERE

Development Manager Opening

TWF is looking to hire an experienced and energetic Development Manager to plan and execute our fundraising initiatives and events. Please click [here](#) for the job spec.

Prominent HK Family Looking for High Level Aide

We have been asked by a very prominent but low-key Hong Kong family to help them recruit a high level aide. The ideal candidate will be college-educated, extremely organised, efficient, an uber multi-tasker, discreet, polished, poised, have a mature outlook, able to travel with the family, and fluent in English and Cantonese. Please contact akikotakahashi@melco-crown.com for more information.

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:

APRIL 15: [Morgan Stanley Sustainable Investing Challenge](#) – a graduate student pitch competition for institutional investment vehicles that target competitive financial returns alongside positive social and/or environmental impact

APRIL 15: Project Citizens Foundation Forum on [What Makes Hong Kong An International Financial Centre](#)

APRIL 19: The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong's [Inspirational Women Series - Naomi Climer: The Role of Women in the Fourth Industrial Revolution](#)

APRIL 28: CoCoon's [Beyond Corporate HK: The rewards and challenges of starting your own business](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

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

- [Paying Women Equally Would Be a Boon for 'Everyone Else,' Too](#) (The Atlantic)
- [Tech Companies Help Women Get Back to Work](#) (The Wall Street Journal)
- [There's A \\$2 Trillion GDP Boost In Shrinking The U.S. Gender Gap](#) (Bloomberg)
- [How Should Sexual Assault Be Depicted On Television?](#) (The Economist)
- [In Sudan, Communities Are Finally Seeing The Value Of Educating Girls](#) (The Guardian)

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