

Dear Lisa

Hong Kong held a fiercely contested election last Sunday to determine the composition of the 70-member Legislative Council for the next four-year session of LegCo starting October 1.

In the last two LegCo's, there were 11 women comprising 18% of the 60 seats in 2008 and 15.7% of the 70 seats in 2012. Happily, the new LegCo will have increased female representation with 12 women in total or 17.1% of members. However, Hong Kong trails behind the UK, Australia, Canada, Singapore and Taiwan in terms of female representation within our lawmakers.

Notably, all six Kowloon West representatives - Ann Chiang, Leung Mei Fun, Lau Siu Lai, Claudia Mo, Helena Wong and Yau Wai Ching - are women from a range of political parties. The other female members are Tanya Chan, Regina Ip, Starry Lee, Alice Mak, Elizabeth Quat and Yung Hoi Yan.

Female representation is important because studies show that women lawmakers are more concerned about education, health, welfare and the environment than their male counterparts, which suggests that gender balance is important. And while LegCo has drawn much negative press for the filibustering and quorum calls that took place in the last session, its work of scrutinising bills, monitoring public expenditure and holding policymakers to account is fundamental within Hong Kong's system of governance. Despite the filibusters, lawmakers approved 83 of the 89 government bills presented to them during the last session and posed nearly 6,000 questions to ministers.

This election is also important because the stakes have arguably never been higher. Two years after the Occupy movement and increasing tensions between different political factions, the incoming LegCo offers a fresh start to building more trust and co-operation between the people, lawmakers and the Government. As [Anson Chan put it in a recent talk](#) at the Foreign Correspondents' Club, "we need greater focus on inclusiveness and the development of broad-based policy platforms, capable of attracting support from a wide range of age groups and social sectors. We need less tub-thumping and more willingness by parties to work together on policies where there is a broad consensus on objectives".

We also need to continue to press for a reopening of the debate on constitutional reform including the removal of institutional barriers that limit women's representation in LegCo. Many women's groups have long called for the reform of the functional constituency system since the functional constituencies have traditionally been male bastions. Of the 76 candidates for the 35 functional constituencies (including the 5 "Super" seats) in Sunday's election, only three were women and only one - Starry Lee - was successful. The good news is that, as Anson Chan observed, there are a growing number of functional constituencies with younger members who are committed to reform by broadening their electorate, ousting the old guard leadership and ultimately paving the way to vote themselves out of existence.

In short, Hong Kong is at a crossroads. At The Women's Foundation, like so many people in Hong Kong, we are hopeful that the new LegCo will be cognisant of the part they can play to make the next four years a positive ground-breaking chapter in the history of Hong Kong.

Warm regards

Su-Mei Thompson
 CEO, The Women's Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

MENTORING PROGRAMME

2016-2017
 INFO SESSIONS



Mentoring Programme 2016-2017 Info Sessions: 1st, 2nd and 4th Sessions Already Full!

TWF is launching the 8th cycle of our Mentoring Programme for Women Leaders. All prospective applicants MUST attend ONE of our upcoming Info Sessions to hear from current mentors and protégés on why you should apply and what is expected of participants. **We will be running 6 sessions this year - please select one session only.** REGISTER [here](#) to join. Click [here](#) to watch our new Mentoring Programme video, created for us by [Baobao Films](#) with music from Studio 101.

30% Club Annual Boardroom Lunch: Tables Going Fast!

Join us for the fourth 30% Club Boardroom

BOARDROOM LUNCH

FOURTH LUNCH OF THE SERIES



Lunch which brings aspiring and accomplished women directors face to face with chairmen, CEOs and advisors to Hong Kong's leading companies for simulated boardroom discussions on key issues facing boards today. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Dame Rosanna Wong Yick-ming, DBE, JP, Executive Director of The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups; National Committee Member of the CPPCC; and INED of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, CK Hutchison Holdings Limited and The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited among many other public and private sector appointments.

DATE: Friday, October 14, 2016

TIME: 12.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.

VENUE: The Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty

REGISTER [here](#) to join.

MENTORING ALUMNI

INTRODUCTION TO MINDFULNESS



Introduction to Mindfulness for Mentoring Alumni

Calling all former TWF MP Mentors and Protégés - join us for a morning of mindfulness training focusing on "Working Better - Living Better". Mindfulness has been proven to have positive effects on mental health and well being, performance and ability to handle stress.

DATE: Saturday, October 15, 2016

TIME: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

VENUE: Bloomberg, 25/F, Cheung Kong Centre, 2 Queen's Road, Central

REGISTER [here](#) to join.

MENTORING PROGRAMME

ALUMNI REUNION



Mentoring Programme Alumni Reunion

Calling all current and former TWF MP Mentors and Protégés: please save the date for the first ever TWF MP Alumni Reunion! Celebrate this year's graduating cohort and reconnect with other alums in an exciting morning with a bit of learning and a lot of fun. More details to follow.

DATE: Saturday, November 5, 2016

TIME: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

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

REGISTER [here](#) to join.

NOV 15 | TUE
SAVE THE DATE
THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION GALA DINNER 2016

FROM 7.00PM | JW MARRIOTT HOTEL | ONE PACIFIC PLACE, 88 QUEENSWAY

- CHALLENGING GENDER STEREOTYPES
- INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS
- ENTICING DRAW PRIZES
- DELECTABLE FOOD AND WINE
- EARLY BIRD TICKET PRICE

Save the Date! TWF Gala Dinner 2016

Mark your calendars for TWF's signature Gala Dinner featuring inspirational speakers, luxury prizes and live entertainment - stay tuned for more details!

DATE: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

TIME: From 7.00 p.m.

VENUE: JW Marriott Hotel, One Pacific Place, 88 Queensway

TWF PROGRAMME UPDATES



TWF & Girls Go Tech selected as one of five MTR-supported youth projects!

We are delighted to share the exciting news that TWF's Girls Go Tech Programme is one of five youth development projects selected to receive support from MTR Corporation! The MTR Corporation's support will allow us to provide free coding and foundational technology workshops to an additional 160 underprivileged secondary female students from four schools. Our heartfelt thanks to MTRC and everyone who voted for us in the public vote!



T.E.E.N. Alumni Glass-Making



Workshop

Last Tuesday, our TEEN Alumni enjoyed the final session in a series of glass-making workshops over the summer. They learnt to craft unique glass pieces through mastering glass imagery printing and fusing. Many thanks to the Hong Kong Glass Arts Development Society for supporting our TEEN Programme.



Life Skills Programme: Internships at Jurlique

This summer, three of our Life Skills Programme participants enjoyed a two-week internship with Jurlique. The students gained real-life work experience and developed their presentation, communication and time management skills. Many thanks to the Jurlique mentors for inspiring the students to think about and set their own career goals for the future.

SHE OBJECTS UPDATES



Community Screening at Island School

Many thanks to Island School for hosting today's She Objects screening for over 200 students and teachers. The screening was followed by an enthusiastic student-led panel discussion featuring Nicola Fan, She Objects Director and TWF's Lisa Moore. TWF is delighted to facilitate in-house/on-campus screenings and dialogues drawing on our She Objects discussion guide. We charge a modest licence fee for community screenings with all proceeds going to support our Media Literacy Programme in local schools and universities. Please contact Sarah Abbott Ladner at Sarah.AbbottLadner@twfhk.org for more information.



Special Screening for Corporate Partners & Donors

Please join us for a special screening of She Objects followed by a panel discussion featuring Annie Ho, Clinical Psychologist, George Chen, Head of Public Policy, Hong Kong and Taiwan, Facebook and Su-Mei Thompson, CEO, TWF. Light refreshments will be served thanks to the generous support of UBS.

DATE: Tuesday, September 20, 2016

TIME: 6.45 - 8.45 p.m.

VENUE: UBS Auditorium, 52/F, 2 International Finance Centre, Central

REGISTER [here](#). Tickets are HK\$200 per person. All proceeds will go to TWF's Media Literacy Programme in secondary schools and universities.



Watch She Objects at 2016 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong

Catch She Objects during the Festival at The Metroplex on September 25 and 29. Nicola Fan, Director of She Objects, will join the Q&A session after both screenings. Click [here](#) for more information.

RETURN TO WORK PROGRAMMES



Jo Hayes on the Case for Return-to-Work Programmes

Click [here](#) for an article on Return-to-Work Programmes by Jo Hayes, TWF Director of



Pipeline Initiatives, from this week's edition of Human Resources Magazine. Jo suggests offering returnees upskilling initiatives, buddy schemes, access to senior management, fast-tracked programmes and flexible working conditions to facilitate successful and sustainable integration.

Morgan Stanley



Return To Work 2017

Return to Work 2017 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 Launches Return To Work Programme

Kudos to Morgan Stanley for launching their latest [Return to Work programme](#) in Hong Kong. The programme offers qualified participants paid 12-week internships starting from February 16, 2017. **Applications for the programme will close on October 2, 2016.** Please click [here](#) for more details, including job descriptions, qualifications and requirements.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Gender Equity – Retaining & Returning Female Talent in Hong Kong

TWF is pleased to support FLEXImums and Back to Work's HK Gender Equity Conference: Retaining & Returning Female Talent in Hong Kong. The day long conference will include panel discussions, debates and talks focusing on practical ideas businesses can implement to create a more gender inclusive workplace.

DATE: Thursday, September 29, 2016

TIME: 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

VENUE: Butterfield's, 2/F, Dorset House, Tai Koo Place, Quarry Bay

REGISTER [here](#) to join the conference and enjoy 25% off corporate ticket prices using the promo code "TWF".



Community Business Conference 2016

TWF is pleased to support Community Business' leading [Community Business Conference 2016](#): Harnessing the Power of Business to Drive Social Change. The Conference will explore why responsible business is critical to long-term business success and examine how companies can take the lead in tackling inequality and creating inclusive workplaces in Asia.

DATE: November 15 & 16, 2016

TIME: 9.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.

VENUE: Regal Airport Hotel Hong Kong

REGISTER [here](#) to join the conference and enjoy 10% off tickets prices using the promo code "CONF16distenpr".

TWF FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES - We Would Love Your Support!



Support TWF by selling Gold Flags at your office!

We are looking for opportunities to sell TWF Gold flags in offices to support TWF's Life Skills Programme for under privileged adolescent girls and boys in Hong Kong. We can provide a speaker, student ambassadors and cakes! To hold a TWF Gold Flag sale at your offices before September 30, please contact Sarah Abbott Ladner at Sarah.AbbottLadner@twfhk.org.



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.

WHAT WE'RE READING

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

- [This Is The Big Difference Between How Men And Women Respond To Feedback](#) (Fortune)
- [Cracking a Glass Ceiling With the Maestro's Baton](#) (New York Times)
- [Women Seek Pay Rises As Much As Men - With Less Success](#) (BBC)
- [Women Bring More Tech Expertise To The Boardroom Than Men Do](#) (Fortune)
- [Most Americans Still Think Women Should Do The Bulk Of The Housework](#) (Huffington Post)
- [My Brother's Pregnancy And The Making Of A New American Family](#) (TIME)
- [You're How Old? We'll Be In Touch](#) (New York Times)

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