

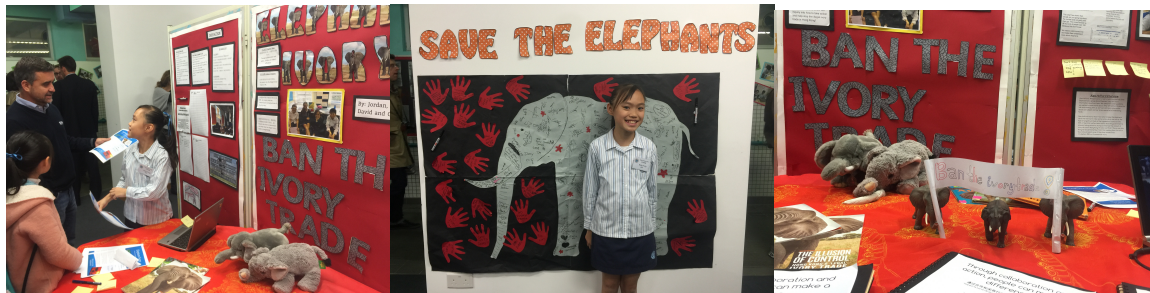
Clerk to Bills Committee on Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants  
(Amendment) Bill 2017  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

August 23, 2017

Dear Chairman of the Bill Committee:

My name is 馮貝凌 (Belén Woo Fung) and I am an 11 year old student in Year 8 at King George V.

I have been working in support of the Elephant Ivory Ban for almost two years. We learned about the terrible effects of elephant poaching in Year 6 at Clearwater Bay School. My team researched the topic deeply and designed educational displays. I also recruited other students to participate in public awareness events.



Because of my activities, the Chief Executive met with me in March 2016 to discuss the ivory ban. I expressed my deep appreciation for the support of the Chief Executive and other legislators.



This is my statement for the Public Meeting on September 6.

**I support the Hong Kong government's ivory ban. I support the Hong Kong government's proposed increase in penalties for wildlife crime. I oppose the Hong Kong government paying compensation to the Hong Kong ivory traders for their ivory stocks.**

我支持香港政府象牙禁令。我支持香港政府增加野生動物罪行刑罰。我反對香港政府對象牙商人仍持有的象牙存貨作出賠償。

Elephants are magnificent creatures. These are one of the most intelligent species on our planet and they are just as intelligent as whales and primates. Their brain is as complex as ours as they are capable of learning, mimicry, play, altruism, use of tools, self-awareness, memory, and communication. Elephants understand emotions like joy, anger, fear and depression. They are social, compassionate and cooperative. They help one another when they are in trouble and they are part of a big family, just like us.

The worst part is they are in danger of going extinct.

We should increase the penalties and set consequences because the current measures don't work. You may know that 85% of the elephant ivory being shipped and traded in Hong Kong is illegal. Worse yet, speculators hoard the ivory waiting for the price to go up. Because they are buying up even more ivory to hoard, this encourages poachers in Africa to kill even more elephants.

The government should not be compensating the traders with our public taxpayers' money because giving ivory any financial value would trigger a new round of elephant poaching in Africa. Poachers, traffickers and HK ivory traders would be tempted to cash in illegally on any government compensation plan. If you change the bill to include a compensation plan, it would defeat the purpose of the bill, which is to conserve elephants.

Using Hong Kong taxpayer money to pay the traders would mean that we are rewarding the ivory traders and speculators for encouraging poachers to criminally kill these beautiful creatures and we don't want that. Elephants are dying every day only for luxury and high status symbols, not for necessities like food or clothing. Every time we buy ivory from ivory traders, especially the speculators, that would mean we are paying poachers for their bad deeds. They are only using the ivory tusks and not the rest of the animal which means that the body will lay useless and a beautiful, intelligent, sensitive, compassionate life that could've been saved is gone.

Thank you very much for organizing the Public Meeting. I am looking forward to speaking about this important issue there.

Best regards,

馮貝凌  
Belén Woo Fung