

Attention LegCo

23 August 2017

I am writing to you regarding the necessary ban on Ivory trading in Hong Kong. This trade has for many years lead to the illegal slaughter of the beautiful elephants of Africa, and you have the ability to end the crisis before they become extinct. Please act now!

We, as humans, have the power to speak and act on the horrific killings of animals; as they are not able to defend or speak for themselves. Let us practice our power to ensure the survival of these amazing animals in order for generations to come to enjoy their beauty.

Hong Kong is a powerful player in the Ivory trade, and can set an example to the rest of the world to end the injustice and unnecessary suffering of elephants now. Ban the ivory trade as soon as possible.

No compensation should be given to ivory traders, I do not want my tax money feeding an illegal and selfish trade that will bring about a destruction of a species. No other country does this for good reason, Hong Kong should not be the first. Traders have been benefitting from the ivory for too long, we know better now that the price of having a dead ivory ornament, is the loss of a live elephant. Elephants are intelligent and live in family groups. We are killing families just to have a pretty piece in our house. The tradition needs to end, as it has no place in the modern world.

Higher penalties should be in implemented on the illegal trade of ivory, as a first world country, we should not be seen to support and be lenient towards criminals. This trade fuels criminals all over the world, crime should not pay.

I trust you will consider the elephants, the heritage of Africa, when making your decision and their suffering which can be stopped at your power.

Thank you for your time

Dr Melanie Kate Asquith
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South African living in Hong Kong