

Dear members of the Legislative Council,

An immediate ban of the ivory trade

I am greatly concerned by the recent rapid decline in the number elephants in the world. Elephants have now, tragically, become an endangered species. I urge the Hong Kong government to effect an immediate total ban on the ivory trade to avoid the animals' extinction.

It is shocking to learn that Hong Kong – which calls itself a World City – has become the key transit point for the illicit trade in ivory from Africa to China. More than 20,000 elephants are being savagely slaughtered annually for their tusks – leaving abandoned orphans distressed and mourning their parents. In trying to stop criminal gangs ruthlessly poaching adult elephants, many rangers are themselves getting killed at the end of a gun. For what? A tasteless ornament?

Without intervention, it is only a matter of a few years before the elephant will become extinct because of human greed and stupidity. We cannot sit by and do nothing. We all have a responsibility to make sure the elephant survives. I urge the government not to wait but to pass the bill banning the ivory trade immediately.

Yours sincerely

Vivian Chiu