

To: Legislative Council Secretariat

Re: "Legislative proposal to phase out the local trade in ivory and progress of Government's efforts on nature conservation and marine conservation"

Honorable Legislative Council Secretariat, and  
Honorable Members of the Legislative Council:

China's efforts to close carving factories and end ivory trading in 2017, in order to save elephants from extinction, will not succeed without Hong Kong's intervention and support.

Elephant population has dropped by 98.5% in just over 2 centuries (according to the National Geographic Society estimates and Great Elephant Census of 2016). Millions of elephant lives are irreversibly lost.

Hong Kong can make an enormous positive difference now, while that population hangs in the balance by making ivory a thing of the past and refusing any participation in the Ivory Trade, both legal and black market. The first masks the second and the latter feeds into international and dangerous criminal enterprises—trafficking in arms, drugs and the slave trade. Suffering and criminality and extinction are in disregard of law and honor. Yet, Hong Kong remains an important hub for the trade in ivory: as a location for carving, selling, and smuggling.

Your chamber holds the power to demand freedom from bloodshed and criminality that harms both human society AND animal populations and preserves Chinese cultural values AND world ecology. Creativity, and even tradition, is not dependent upon materials but upon the artistry of people. We need more sustainable use of materials to continue to honor the craft and not necessitate the murders of sentient beings.

Please do the honorable thing for Hong Kong, and for the elephant populations remaining on the planet. Help stop trafficking. Legislate fiercely against buying, selling, and trading ivory—thus representing not only Hong Kong, but the entire planet. Consign ivory to history, not elephants. Command international respect and gratitude and keep our planet for all our children unharmed and unsoiled with carcasses whose time was not due.

For this, you have my respect and attention.

SIGNED

Respectfully Yours,  
Jane Leikind  
Aptos, California, USA