

主旨:

Fwd: Suggestion of 4-day work week for working mothers

To: [views@hkpopulation.gov.hk](mailto:views@hkpopulation.gov.hk)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to express my views on the Population Policy for Hong Kong. As a working mother with a full-time job at middle level, I have a strong desire to quit my job, go home and take care of my two young kids who are aged 4 years and 5 years old. I cannot but need to work and sacrifice my precious time with my young children, which is irreversible. This is due to the high rental, high property price and costly education. Even though my husband is a professional, middle-income worker, we do not see we have the ability to afford a house in HK and provide good education for our kids. Therefore, I still need to work to earn the other half of my family income and support my family. The downside is my kids are being nurtured by a foreign domestic helper, instead of a mother. If you are considering the population policy for HK, please take into account the factor of people's quality in the future. Why married HK people don't want to have kids? The answers are very simple - unaffordable property (no permanent resident), high living cost, education fee is not free if you want an English medium and better quality school, and family pressure as a result of economic disputes and the insufficient time with your children in their early childhood. All developed Western countries have highly considerate population and family-oriented policy for their citizens. Why can't Hong Kong has such policy? Why only previous civil servants in HK have the best possible benefits but not new comers or people working in the private sectors?

The world is unfair but the government can promulgate flexible policy to help working mothers like us, who struggle between work and children's matters every day and negligent of everything else including our health. A busy work life and a missing heart drive us crazy.

If you want mothers to go back to their work desk, I really hope that Hong Kong can implement flexible working hours for mothers, e.g. a 4-day work week could benefit most of us as at least one more day could be allocated to the children's school work or participate in their school activities. The education is getting more and more demanding for students nowadays and it is really a mother's innate task to help their children. If the society will be having a smaller workforce in future to support an aging population, it will be necessary for our next generation to be more capable, caring and efficient to carry out a large number of tasks for our society. A mother's role is irreplaceable by any domestic helpers and a family-oriented society will lead to a better, a brighter and more harmonised society.

Best Regards,

A typical working mother in HK