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# What could everyone do right now to make the world a better place?

At Habitat Hong Kong, we have just finished one financial year and as we look forward to the year ahead, we are scaling up our efforts to collectively contribute to a more inclusive Hong Kong, where everyone has access to decent and affordable housing. We have been serving the local community in Hong Kong since 2004, because decent and affordable housing is a catalyst for breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. But we know that the housing crisis in Hong Kong is complex and that requires collaborative and creative solutions.

I was recently asked to speak on Regina Larko's #Impact Podcast [https://zcu.io/6Fkv] about the work we're doing to advocate for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the final question was, 'What could everyone do right now, to make the world a better place?'

### I believe we can all take two small but powerful actions:

1. The first is 'be kind'. Be kind to others and be kind to yourself. We have been through a lot, and we have come through it stronger thanks to our collective grit, determination and an unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. As we move forward, we need to be kind to ourselves, gather our strength and stay more focused and more determined than ever before.

2. The second is 'reflect'. We are all so caught up in our tasks, our to-do lists, being connected all day every day that unless we plug in time to unplug and reflect, we can't come up with the creative ideas we need to come up with to challenge the status quo, achieve these big Sustainable Development Goals and in the case of Habitat supporters, achieve our goal of a world where everyone has decent and affordable housing. It's OK to carve out time to reflect. In fact, it's essential.

We'd love to hear from you. What are you doing to make the world a better place? Send us an email or as I

said in the podcast, pop in for a coffee to learn more about our work!

Thank you, Jo Hayes CEO Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong

# Donate to support our work



Voices of volunteers

"I believe every one of us has a responsibility and moral obligation to support, care and unconditionally love those in need because we may also need such at some point in our lifetime or when we fall on hard times."

Sanday came to Hong Kong in 2011 and has known Habitat for Humanity for many years. He started volunteering with Habitat Hong Kong in 2019, when he first discovered our charity campaign, Race the Runway, with Sporting Republic. Since then, he has been taking constant action to support and join our local volunteer programmes, including Home Hygiene Pack Preparation and renovating homes through Project Home Works. We are grateful for his contributions to the local community and his passion to raise awareness of poverty and housing issues in Hong Kong. We are always in awe of how much time and love Sanday gives back to the community. A truly inspirational volunteer!



## Our local impact

It's LIVE! We are excited to hear our CEO, Jo Hayes be interviewed by Podcast extraordinaire Regina Larko on the latest #impact Podcast episode. In this episode, Jo shares her story about how she overcame a massive setback in her personal life. She talks about the bold ambitions she has for scaling up the local impact Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong has through our public policy efforts. Listen in to find out about the programmes we run locally, the immediate impact we're having and how we can't accept the substandard conditions she and the Habitat team see every day when they're delivering renovation and deep cleaning programmes. Find out too how Habitat for Humanity contributed to the creation of SDG 11, specifically Target 11.1, and how we advocated for the inclusion of adequate and affordable housing, including upgrading slums, as critical objectives in the SDGs.

The link also leads to a written summary of the conversation and some favourite guotes! Thank you for inviting us and sharing our story!

Tune in here

Follow us on Facebook





## Our global impact

Covid-19 has amplified the extent of the housing crisis. Globally, millions of families were already struggling due to unsafe and unhealthy living conditions, financial impossibilities of unaffordable rent, and lack of access to adequate sanitation and water facilities. They are now joined by millions more who have lost income as businesses have closed and workers have lost jobs due to COVID-19.

While some parts of the world are moving forward with improved conditions and successful vaccination programs, other parts such as the South Asian region are experiencing secondary and tertiary waves of the pandemic, further decimating healthcare infrastructures, economies and lives. Our response to the worsening conditions aims to serve communities we have helped build and those who are struggling due to their lack of access to safe, decent shelter. Please the Habitat for Humanity visit Asia-Pacific facebook page for more updates.

# Our work in Asia-Pacific regions

# Housing in the news

#### In Hong Kong

- Hong Kong landlords face HK\$10,000 fines under new rent-control law to protect some of city's poorest people (South China Morning Post)
- Rising rents, high moving costs hammer Hong Kong families stuck in subdivided flats (South China) Morning Post)
- Space-starved Hong Kong to hit target of building 15,000 transitional homes by 2023, leader says (South China Morning Post)
- Same-sex partners can own subsidised housing as court overturns Hong Kong's anti-LGBT housing policy (Hong Kong Free Press)
- Hong Kong's urban farms sprout gardens in the sky, in sustainability push (The Business Times)
- Survey on the Housing Choice and Service Needs of the "Low-income Households of Sub-divided units" (SDU)" (The Hong Kong Council of Social Service)

#### In Asia

- Inclusive housing model- A key to building sustenance among low-income households (<u>99acres</u>)
- Fatuvalu Safune celebrates new shelter (Samoa Observer)

## Together, we build a better future

Thank you to our TwoPresents Hero Euphiee for sharing so generously her 6th birthday gifts with Habitat Hong Kong! Euphiee and her family visited our office and we gave them some gifts to show our appreciation. Thank you to Euphiee and her birthday guests for caring for our community. Happy birthday!!

Please support us on your next birthday. May this day be as sunny as your smile.

# How you can support

### Around the world

· We need to focus on the problem of crowding, not density, in our cities (Policy Options)

# How you can support



Your monthly donation will help families in need of a decent place to build long-term financial security. With an affordable, stable home, families have more to on food, medicine, spend childcare, education and other essentials.

[EMAIL]

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Volunteering is in our DNA. Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world! Please read the stories from our volunteers!



We appreciate the support of all our volunteers! Together, we can build strength, stability and selfreliance through shelter. Join hands and be our volunteer today! Always remember to give back to the community and help others out, you will feel great afterwards



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