

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WeAreTheCity Rising Star Awards 2021**

#### **WeAreTheCity shines the spotlight on 200 remarkable women as they announce the Rising Star Awards shortlist**

WeAreTheCity are proud to announce the shortlist for their 2021 Rising Star Awards.

The Rising Star Awards, now in their seventh year, are the first to focus on the UK's female talent pipeline below management level. Through these awards, we will celebrate 100 individual female contributors that represent the leaders and role models of tomorrow. We hope that by raising the profile of our shortlist and winners, we will also encourage organisations to consider how they strengthen the development of their female pipeline in the future.

Since 2015, WeAreTheCity's Rising Star Awards have highlighted the achievements of over 550 future leaders and role models across a variety of different industries and professions.

This year's 200 strong shortlist showcases remarkable women within the UK, from across 20 categories representing different industries/professions. Examples of the amazing women shortlisted this year are Alice Hendy, who founded R;pple Suicide Prevention after the tragic loss of her brother, Josh, in 2020; Asha Mohammed, an award winning second year junior doctor and an activist who has made it her mission to tackle gender-based violence with a specific focus on female genital mutilation; and Sherrie Smith, who was born and raised in a traditional Romany Gypsy family and now dedicates her time to challenging prejudice, racism and bias directed at Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

New for this year, we are also celebrating women around the world with our Global Award for Achievement. This year's shortlisted nominees include Anju Gurung, who is a Associate Civil Servant for the British Gurkas Nepal; Isabella Gomes, who is currently freelancing as a Coronavirus frontline reporter for the Baltimore Sun; and Vicki Lau, a VFX and VR Specialist, whose worked on **AMC's hit series, The Walking Dead (Season 4), as well as other movies such as Guardians of the Galaxy, War for the Planet of the Apes and Aquaman.**

We are also celebrating Men for Gender Balance, which celebrates senior men who are championing women and gender balance either inside or outside their organisation. The shortlisted nominees for this year include Gary Ford, Director, Moonshot Consultancy, who is a Male Allies advisor for Women on the Wharf and provides keynote presentations or run workshops on creating male ally groups; Peter Palmer, Trustee and Director (Voluntary) S.E.E.D (Support and Education for Eating Disorders Lancashire); and Patrick McCrae, CEO and Co-Founder, ARTIQ, a global arts and cultural consultancy, and a LGBTQ+ leader committed to building a truly inclusive sector.

The awards also continue to celebrate Rising Star Champions, recognising the efforts of senior leaders who are actively supporting the female pipeline. Included in this year's shortlist are Maysoon Shafiq, Founder and Director of Al Mu'Minun (The Believers), a non-profit organisation dedicated to serving the youth through open spaces of spirituality, dialogue and empowerment; and Bernadette Thompson, Deputy Director for Inclusion, Wellbeing and Employee Engagement in the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG); a notable diversity advocate and public speaker, working with leaders across government and the public sector to drive a culture of inclusion and increase the pace on representation of Black and Minority Ethnic employees particularly at more senior grades.

The Rising Star Awards also include a Company of the Year award, which recognises the achievements of a company who can demonstrate that they are actively supporting and developing their female talent pipeline through initiatives, training, development programmes and/or internal employee relations groups. Shortlisted companies this year are NatWest, PwC and Royal Air Force.

The public are encouraged to cast their votes of support for our shortlisted nominees via [risingstars.wearethecity.com](https://risingstars.wearethecity.com). Voting opens on 20 April 2021 and closes on 30 April 2021. Please note there is no public vote for the Champion, Company of the Year, Global Award for Achievement or Men for Gender Balance categories.

The 2021 awards are headline sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada. Category sponsors include an array of leading FTSE 100 companies and industry leaders: 3M, Accenture, Barclays, Bloomberg, British Army, Cancer Research UK, C&C Search, Citi, CMI, Elysian

Search Consulting, Goldman Sachs, GSK, Highways Sector Council, HSBC, Lloyd's, National Grid, Northern Trust, Oliver Wyman, Oxford Said Business School, Reed Smith and Sage.

**Dave Thomas, CEO Europe, Capital Markets & Wealth Management, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)** said, "Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) is delighted to be powering the Rising Stars Awards for the second year. These awards are critical to celebrate and showcase incredible talent across multiple industries in the UK, something that is particularly important during these challenging times. Diversity and inclusion is more than just a value at RBC, it's our strength, and it's one of the ways we bring our purpose of helping clients thrive and communities prosper to life."

**Vanessa Vallely OBE, Founder of WeAreTheCity, said,** "The calibre of entries this year has been truly exceptional. Every one of these women should be extremely proud of their achievements. They are key contributors to their industries and outstanding role models. I wish them the very best of luck in the final round of judging."

These 200 women will now face the final judging period and the public vote. Our 2021 shortlist, judges, sponsors and supporters will be invited to a virtual ceremony on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The public are encouraged to cast their votes of support for our shortlisted nominees from 20 April via [risingstars.wearethecity.com](https://risingstars.wearethecity.com)

**-ENDS-**

**Editor's notes:**

To view the full shortlist, [click here](#).

[WeAreTheCity.com](https://www.wearethecity.com) is a female development organisation that helps companies to attract, return and develop their female talent pool. WeAreTheCity provides resources for women looking to develop themselves personally and professionally. Through the website we provide gender-related news, a networks directory, calendar of events and conferences, returnships, business schools, inspirational women profiles, HeForShe interviews, giving back and jobs.

**WeAreTheCity's aim is:**

- To encourage women to progress in their careers through proactive activities such as networking, events, further education and training
- To help corporate organisations to attract, retain and develop their female employees
- To raise awareness of the various organisations including not-for-profit organisations who support the progression of women

- To connect and encourage women to give back and share their time/skills with charities, social enterprises, school, not-for-profit organisations and to become role models for the next generation of working women.

**For more information, press enquiries or images, please contact:**

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**For information about working with us, please visit** [workwithus.wearethecity.com](http://workwithus.wearethecity.com)

## **APPENDIX**

### **Rising Star Award's 2021 Shortlist**

#### **All Other Industries**

- Alex Canavan, BT
- Anita Randen-Green, Ministry of Justice
- Charlotte Morphet, St Albans City and District Council / Women in Planning
- Daisy Collard, Sainsbury's
- Emily Wallis, Sainsbury's
- Kritika Singh, Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel & Bristol Marriott City Centre
- Samantha Gould, NOW: Pensions
- Sarah Lambley, BBC
- Sheila Chauhan, Veolia UK
- Zahrah Mamode, Sky

#### **Banking & Capital Markets**

- Eunice Zhu, SMBC Nikko Capital Markets (Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation)
- Folakemi Fapohunda, Deutsche Bank AG
- Hannah Awonuga, Barclays
- Jessica Seager, Chetwood Financial Limited
- Jordan Pearson, NatWest
- Meenal Upadhyay, Morgan Stanley
- Sandra Blaga, RBS International
- Stacy Lamb, PA Consulting
- Yaa Ofori-Ansah, Barclays
- Yulia Manyutina, Coutts

#### **Charity & Not-For-Profits**

- Anna Townsend, Women Without Roofs - Nepal
- Emily Cunningham, South Tyneside Council
- Gemma Oxenham, One Housing

- Hannah O'Neill, Action Tutoring
- Jasmine Draxler, Early Careers Foundation
- Kiran Sahota, Believe in Me CIC
- Noorina Ramdhay, HSBC
- Sherrie Smith, Gypsies and Travellers Essex
- Shreen Mahmood, Muslims Connect
- Veronica Frincu, Royal Academy of Engineering

## **Defence**

- Abbie Rymer, British Army
- Bethanie Baker, BAE Systems
- Charlotte Davies, Royal Air Force
- Claudine Martin, British Army
- Joanne Ellett, British Army, Corps of Royal Engineers
- Karen Barnicoat, Ministry of Defence
- Mariette Claassens, British Army
- Megan Lloyd, King's Royal Hussars
- Natasha Day, British Army
- Priscilla Quansah, British Army

## **Digital**

- Anisha Malde, IBM
- Apoorva Varma Mehta, NatWest
- Daniella Chrysochou, Capco
- Jessica Thorne, IBM
- Katherine Eyles, BAE Systems Applied Intelligence
- Rimshah Razzaq, BBC
- Swati Gupta, Cognizant Technology Solution
- Teneeka Mai, Oliver Wyman
- Vanessa Fong, ONE CodeBase
- Vivian Lee, Harry's

## **Diversity**

- Amanda Newman, Accenture
- Caroline McIntyre, NatWest
- Holly Miles, BLM LLP
- Kate-Lily de Graft-Johnson, British Land
- Lea Armstrong, Barclays
- Louise Goux-Wirth, UWE Bristol
- Nafisa Kiani, House of Commons
- Nina Ma, PwC
- Siwan Smith, KTN
- Tribeni Chougule, Visa

## **EA & PA**

- Ann Hodson, PwC
- Chloe Roberts, Nivaura
- Davina Soochit, Egon Zehnder
- Hettle Vasani, Coty Inc.
- Hilary Lambert, JP Morgan Asset Management UK Limited
- Jane Jones, Dell Technologies
- Jenny McRae, OGTC
- Saadia Sharmin, Black Antelope Law
- Stacey Kowalczyk, Oliver Wyman
- Tegan Duffy, Baker McKenzie

## **Education & Academia**

- Fiona Yelland, Queen Mary University London
- Francisca Rockey, Black Geographers CIC
- Kate Etheridge, South Hampstead High School
- Kiran Satti, Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust
- Meera Chudasama, Oakgrove School
- Natalie Cheung, Reed In Partnership
- Tanya Howden, Heart of Midlothian FC
- Toria Bono, Thomas A Becket Junior School
- Victoria Selwyn, Norwich Medical School/Headucate UEA society
- Yamina Bibi, Forest Gate Community School

## **Energy & Utilities**

- Amy Reeve, ExxonMobil
- Danielle Stewart, National Grid
- Kirsty McDermott, National Grid
- Natasha Turner, National Grid
- Oyin Talabi, Buro Happold
- Peny Lantzouni, Shell
- Ravneet Kaur, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
- Sarah Woolham Jaffier, National Grid
- Serena Shah, Shell
- Sheena Froggatt, National Grid

## **Entrepreneurs & Start-Ups**

- Alice Hendy, R;pple Suicide Prevention
- Amandine Flachs, WildMeta
- Anaya Kamara, Anaya Hair and Beauty
- Grace Ballantyne, Ballantyne Group

- Janet Onyia, Onyi Gifts
- Jennifer Ogunyemi, Sisters In Business
- Natalie Bamford, Colleague Box
- Sarah-Jane Mintey MBE, Developing Experts
- Sophia Parvizi-Wayne, Trado Technologies
- Trudie Fell, BelleVie

## **Healthcare**

- Adanna Anomneze-Collins, Cardiff University
- Asha Mohammed, NHS
- Devina Maru, Royal College of General Practitioners
- Ellie Rayner, The Maternity Collective
- Ifewumi Fagunwa, NHS/The SHAKE Africa Project
- Monique Wheatle, African Caribbean Medical Mentors (ACMM)
- Ore Odubiyi, BME Medics
- Oyiza Momoh, GSK
- Sarah Raitt, Defence Primary Healthcare
- Uyiosa Ogunbor, Medsimple

## **HR & Recruitment**

- Amaka Uche, Visa
- Amy Franz, DirectlyApply
- Anisa Aksar, Nivaura
- Annie Lummis, Barclays
- Bukola Bayo-Yusuf, Excellerate Black Futures
- Eleanor Winters, Accenture
- Farrah Ekeroth, EY
- Lauren Shute, Barclays
- Mandip Kang, Atos
- Tomi Ibirogb, AET UK Ltd

## **Infrastructure, Transport & Logistics**

- Alexandra Egge, Mott MacDonald
- Amy Whitehead, London Underground
- Carlyne Ferguson, Kier
- Danielle Burton, GTR (Govia Thameslink Railway)
- Emma Palmer, Rail Delivery Group
- Emma Nicholson, SLC Rail (Founder of Women in Sustainable Rail and Women in Sustainable Construction and Property)
- Hanna Osundina, Balfour Beatty Investments
- Kirsten Galea, Proudlock Associates
- Lily Webb, Transport for London
- Lydia Herbert, Atkins

## **Insurance**

- Amarbir Dhesi, PwC
- Georgina Robinson, Miller Insurance Services
- Harriet Tiplady, Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty
- Lucia Syder, Marsh
- Neeru Verma, PwC
- Rebecca Stewart, Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty
- Sabina Kravcak, AXA
- Shu Lee, PwC
- Sian Toussaint, PwC
- Zina Saeed, HDI Global Specialty

## **Investment Management**

- Abika Martin, Parmenion Capital Partners
- Alexandra Faye, Liontrust Asset Management
- Amanda Kemp, Aon
- Cissy Chan, BlackRock
- Eilidh Anderson, Kingswood Group
- Emma Burger, Bloomberg
- Ines Uwiteto, Seven Investment Management
- Memento Charinga, Legal & General Investment Management
- Rachel Harbers, Morgan Stanley
- Zoe Deady, Tilney Smith & Williamson

## **Law**

- Christina Warner, 4 Brick Court Chambers
- Corinna McClune, Citigroup
- Emily Agnoli, Simmons & Simmons
- Erika Pagano, Simmons Wavelength (Simmons & Simmons)
- Iona Gallagher, South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF)
- Jennifer Cadet, Latham & Watkins
- Morag Ofili, Harbottle & Lewis LLP
- Natasha Dutton, Allen & Overy LLP
- Rachel Welch-Phillips, Bird & Bird LLP
- Simone Goligorsky, Reed Smith LLP

## **Professional Services**

- Angela Whatmuff, Aon
- Avery Johnstone, Kite Insights
- Chloe Priestley, PwC
- Jessica Curtis, Atkins



- Jolee Tung, Oliver Wyman
- Kajal Chhopia, Bank of England
- Lauren Lyons, Oliver Wyman
- Michelle Nunkoo, Dell Technologies
- Preeti Singh, KPMG
- Suman Sidhu, Lane Clark & Peacock LLP

### **Science & Engineering**

- Alexandra Mather, WSP
- Bethany Probert, Altran UK
- Chidinma Okolo, Diamond Light Source, UK
- Cremona Makaginsar, Mott MacDonald
- Frida Nzaba, Rolls-Royce Plc
- Johann Muldoon, Manor Architects Ltd
- Nipuni Karunaratne, Rolls Royce Plc
- Portia Bowman, D-Orbit
- Shani Anderson, Collins Aerospace
- Sylvia Lu, u-blox AG

### **Technology**

- Arka Raina, IBM
- Eiman Raza, EY
- Emma Martin, BT
- Eneni Bambara-Abban, SOKOSHOPPER
- Georgia Yexley, Tier Mobility
- Hosanna Hali, The Tech Cornr
- Isabel Scavetta, Rolls-Royce
- Kathryn Tingle, Sainsbury's
- Suze Shardlow, Suze Shardlow
- Torgyn Erland, QuantumBlack

### **Rising Star Champions**

- Bernadette Thompson, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government
- Dawn Childs, National Grid
- Fiona Barrett, Genius Within CIC
- Joy Foster, Tech Pixies
- Julie Haigh, North Cumbria Integrated Care
- Lisa Waterhouse, National Grid
- Maysoon Shafiq, Al Mu'Minun - The Believers
- Melissa Ahmed, Techwuman Ltd
- Rikki Alderman, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment
- Yota Trom, Women in Tech Club

### **Company of the Year**

- NatWest
- PwC
- Royal Air Force

### **Global Award for Achievement**

- Angeline Aow, WomenEdDE & Berlin International School
- Anju Gurung, British Gurkhas Nepal
- Arpita Agrawal, HSBC
- Arsenia Nikolaeva, SumUp Payments Limited
- Colonel Ishrat Rafique Eshita, International Police Commission
- Dhivya Ranganathan, HSBC
- Isabella Gomes, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
- Jana Jhaveri, World Can Code
- Samaira Mehta, Coder Bunnyz LLC
- Vicki Lau, Independent

### **Men for Gender Balance**

- Darren Michael Smith, CBRE
- Gary Ford, Moonshot Consultancy Ltd
- Gus Macfarlane, Barclays
- Harrison Burton, PwC
- Jibran Ahmed, Capco
- Joe Fowles, Oliver Wyman
- Patrick McCrae, Patrick McCrae
- Peter Palmer, S.E.E.D Lancashire
- Stuart Nyemecz, Dell Technologies
- Tom Robb, PwC