



Press Release



WeAreTheCity Proudly Presents the 2024 Rising Star Awards Shortlist

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For the tenth consecutive year, WeAreTheCity is thrilled to unveil the shortlist for the 2024 Rising Star Awards, highlighting the exceptional achievements of over 230 remarkable individuals. With Royal Bank of Canada as our headline sponsor and the support of our esteemed sponsors, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the shortlisted candidates.

The Rising Star Awards, which attracted 1,300 nominations from across the UK, witnessed an outstanding calibre of entries this year, emphasising the imperative of greater female representation across various industries. All our judges stated that the standard of entries for this year's awards was nothing short of exceptional.

The Rising Star Awards span over 20 different categories highlighting the need to see more women represented within these respective industries. The Awards also include separate awards for Men for Gender Balance, our Champion Award, our Global Award, and our Company of the Year. All shortlisted individuals also have the opportunity to enter our additional Public Vote Award where the winner will be chosen by the public*.

Among the nominees, we have **Cara Swain**, Medical Officer in the Royal Navy and Founder of the Royaumont Forum, recognised for her exceptional dedication to medical education, mentorship, and advocacy for cultural change within the military and medical communities.

Donna Otchere, Co-Founder of SiSTEM UK, a beacon of inspiration, dedicating her efforts to breaking down barriers and providing invaluable support to women in STEM through mentorship, internship programs, and community outreach initiatives.

Sadia Akhtar, Neurological Physiotherapist at MSPhysioCoach, a dedicated neurological physiotherapist, who is revolutionising patient care with her pioneering program tailored for women living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Her commitment to bridging the gap between physical and mental healthcare serves as an inspiration to the healthcare community. By assembling a multidisciplinary team

of experts and integrating elements of psychological support and empowerment, Sadia's program offers comprehensive care that addresses the unique challenges faced by women with MS. Through her innovative approach, Sadia is not only transforming the lives of her patients but also inspiring healthcare professionals worldwide to adopt a more holistic approach to patient care.

These are just a few of the remarkable women on our Rising Star Awards 2024 shortlist, you can view the entire shortlist [here](#).

The Rising Star Awards also include a Company of the Year Award, which recognises the achievements of a company that can demonstrate that they are actively supporting and developing their female talent pipeline through initiatives, training, development programmes and/or internal employee relations groups. We are proud to include the likes of Baringa Partners, HSBC and Pareto FM within this year's shortlist.

The Rising Star Awards also continue to celebrate Champions, recognising the efforts of senior leaders who are actively supporting the female pipeline as well as celebrating male allyship via our Men for Gender Balance category.

This list shines a spotlight on male allies such as **David Morgan**, Vice President & International Treasurer at Royal Bank of Canada, who is the Executive Sponsor for RWomen, which is RBC's employee resource network for women and gender in Europe. David has spearheaded transformative initiatives as Executive Sponsor for RBC's RWomen, driving substantial growth in membership and fostering a culture of gender equity and inclusion in Europe.

Our Champions shortlist also pays tribute to **Kellie Kwarteng**, Founder & CEO of Halzak & Elevate - Women in Tech. A pioneering figure in the recruitment industry who has tirelessly championed women in tech through initiatives like Elevate - Women in Tech, a podcast, and community group, while also volunteering to support youth in sports, showcasing her dedication to fostering diversity and inclusion in both professional and philanthropic realms.

All shortlisted individuals will have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements at a special event hosted on the rooftop of RBC on 21st May, where they can network with fellow nominees, sponsors, and judges. The final Rising Star Awards winners will be announced on 28th May and honoured at a prestigious awards ceremony on 17th July at The Londoner Hotel, Leicester Square.

Please note that the winner of the Company of the Year category will be announced at the ceremony on the 17th July.

The Rising Star Awards are headline sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada. Category sponsors include an array of leading FTSE 100 companies and industry leaders: Agentiv, Barclays, Bloomberg, BAE Systems Digital Intelligence, C&C Search, CMI Women, Dentsu, FTI Consulting, HSBC, Knight Frank Lloyd's of London, National Grid, Northern Trust, Oliver Wyman, Reed Smith, Smart Works, Société Générale, Visa, Warner Bros. Discovery and Warwick Business School.



Dave Thomas, CEO, RBC Europe said, *“Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) is delighted to be powering the Rising Stars Awards for the fifth year. We are committed to helping clients thrive and communities prosper and diversity and inclusion is more than just a value for us, it’s at the heart of what we do, so supporting these awards is a great way to celebrate and showcase incredibly talented people and organisations across multiple industries.”*



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.”*

Shortlisted individuals are invited to enter our public vote as a separate award. The public vote will open from 14-20 May 2024. The number of public votes cast has no impact on the winners of our categories, as that decision is made by our judges. You can cast your votes [here](#).

Please note there is no public vote for the Champion, Company of the Year, Global Award for Achievement or the Men for Gender Balance categories.

Editor’s notes:

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

About the Company

[WeAreTheCity.com](https://www.wearethecity.com) is a website that provides free career resources for working women across the globe. WeAreTheCity also shines a spotlight on women through a series of awards and listings such as the Rising Star Awards (recognising Junior to mid-level women across 20 industries), the Trailblazer50 (recognising senior gender campaigners, women's charity leads and allies), the Pioneer20 (recognising female refugees who create impact and provide support within the refugee community). To date, WeAreTheCity has recognised over 2,000 women through their various awards and provided support thereafter through their partnerships with business schools and education providers. WeAreTheCity also hosts free webinars, conferences, and events throughout the year. To date, they have upskilled more than 40,000 since their formation in 2008. They currently have 80,000 female members and a following of 60,000 across social media platforms.

[WeAreTechWomen.com](https://www.wearetechwomen.com) is WeAreTheCity's sister company dedicated to seeing the increase of women in technology. WeAreTechWomen provides free resources and job opportunities to women working in Tech. They also shine a spotlight on women through their TechWomen100 awards (recognising junior to mid-level women, male allies, senior champions, networks, and companies). WeAreTechWomen host several conferences and summits throughout the year to support women into leadership positions and to address the barriers faced by women in the tech industry. To date, they have helped to upskill over 25,000 global women. WeAreTechWomen has a membership of over 40,000 women and a social media following of 30,000.

Both organisations were founded by Vanessa Vallely who was awarded an OBE for her services to women in 2018.

Media Contacts

This information is for readers who may want to reach out to the company.

NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
All enquiries	Tel: 01268 770675 info@wearethecity.com

APPENDIX

Rising Star Award's 2024 Shortlist

Advertising and Media

- Ally Boldan, instantprint
- Finn Shorrocks, ZEDRA
- Jessica Frank-Keyes, City A.M.
- Kaia Nicholl, Newsquest (East Anglian Daily Times)
- Milica Lukic, Adform
- Mollie Leivars, Spirit Productions
- Nicola McInnes, Dentsu
- Rebekah Schelfhout, Dentsu
- Roha Raheel, WPP
- Rupa Jones, Sky Media

All Other Industries

- Ali-Mai Joseph, Miss Nations International
- Andrea Donaldson-Smith, The Hurlingham Club
- Callie Wang, FCA
- Catherine Tomlin, Transport for London
- Dawn Heels, The Guidance Suite
- Kate Nicholls, Amazon
- Mafalda Perez, Accenture
- Monica Nguyen, ONE
- Renee Francesca, Nottingham Trent University
- Tanya Simon-Hall, The Adeno Gang

Banking & Capital Markets

- Caitlin Hargreaves, Bank of England
- Caroline Garner, Accenture
- Charlotte Douglas, Capco

- Dialid Santiago, Bank of America
- Emma Letheren, RBC
- Jessica McNamee, Lloyds Banking Group
- Lucy Ellis-Keeler, Citi
- Rouya Mardani, Barclays
- Sarah Turner, Barclays
- Vibhusha Raval, Lloyds Banking Group

Charity & Not-for-Profits

- Anna Rawcliffe, National Trust
- Caroline Rees Williams, The Valesco Foundation
- Georgie Packer, Apps for Good
- Hayley Rabbets, The Verve Foundation
- Jasmine Bishop, Get Further
- Kellie Coyle, Action Tutoring
- Leia Patel
- Olivia Greenwell, Get Further
- Yuxi Pan, On Purpose London
- Laura Brown, My Emotions Activity Book

Defence

- Cara Swain, Royal Navy
- Daisy Robinson, BAE Systems Digital Intelligence
- Grace Beckham, BAE Systems Digital Intelligence
- Julia Barr, Mott MacDonald
- Kimbeley Wyche, Armed Forces - Royal Navy
- Laura-Jane Piercy, Defence and Security Accelerator

- Lisa Rawlings, Sierra Nevada Corporation Mission Systems UK
- Lorna Nunn, Royal Air Force
- Millih-Aurelle Coloma, BAE Systems Digital Intelligence
- Ruth Guest, Royal Navy

Digital

- Gemma Walsh, City, University of London
- Georgina Snape, Accenture
- Goodness Ngodigha, Cognizant
- Gwyneth Sotuminu, BAE Systems Digital Intelligence
- Lauren Smith, Aegon
- Libby Patten, BT
- Lilymae Prescott, Sky
- Maria Tsotalou, Oliver Wyman
- Marzia Bolpagni, Mace
- Rebecca Varley, Zone Digital

Diversity

- Donna O`Connor, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
- Gabriella Zanzanaini, Macquarie Group
- Gina Patel, NHS England
- Kat Parsons, ISS UK & Ireland
- Lori Martin, Diageo
- Polina Changuleva, Same But Different Consultancy Ltd
- Rebecca Porteous, IBM Consulting
- Saiba Ali, Accenture
- Sherry Gardner, Royal Bank of Canada

- Smaranda Camber, Accenture

EA & PA

- Abigail Langridge, Poppins PA
- Catherine Harrison, Bee-Assisted Limited
- Fiona Shea, Fiona Shea VA Ltd
- Jenna Bristow, Barclays
- Kate Roughneen, Royal London
- Laura Oakes, Vialto Partners
- Marie Hall, Barclays
- Sandra Nowaczek, Bloom Procurement Services Limited
- Sarah Anderson-Smith, WGC
- Zoe Haswell, Royal Bank of Canada

Education & Academia

- Antoinette Hamilton, The Stour Academy Trust
- Bo Kelestyn, Warwick Business School
- Charley Lucas, King`s Business School
- Izzy Duffy, Multiverse
- Kelly Farr, YourNorth
- Lyndsey Stuttard, ACS Cobham International School
- Marcia Brissett-Bailey, Diversity and Ability
- Maria Violaris, University of Oxford
- Simona Aimar, University College London
- Usha Kong, Tower Hamlets Council

Entrepreneurs & Start-Ups

- Caroline Marshall, Upsource
- Emily Griffiths, For The Women UK
- Georgia Cocks, Wellity Global
- Jennifer Countess von Walderdorff, Look at the Labels
- Lorna Archer, Wellbeing Well YOU
- Nikita Thakrar, Journey with Nikita
- Olivia Jenkins, D. Louise
- Sadia Akhtar, MSPhysioCoach (MSPHC Limited)
- Sarah Bramall & Rebecca Daniel, The Coaching Catalysts
- Toyosi Olowe, ToyoWrites (TW)

Energy & Utilities

- Aimee Betts-Charalambous, KPMG
- Alina Kuzmich, Mott Macdonald
- Claire Huxley, National Grid Electricity System Operator
- Helen Owen, National Grid
- Jackie Rothwell, BP
- Jacqueline Mathieson, SSEN Transmission
- Liz Burlon, Accenture
- Maddie Laidlaw, Macquarie Group
- Mel Liao, Macquarie Group
- Nara Norberto, Macquarie Group

ESG

- Aisling Connaughton, Cyd Connects
- Brigit Douglas, Organisation for Responsible Businesses
- Cathy Yitong Li, IUCN

- Gina Panayiotou, Oceans Arena
- Jasmina Negrini, Barclays
- Lauren Palmer, Barclays
- Micaela Spencer-Rogers, Barclays
- Namita Gupta, MUFG
- Pelin Turkmen, Cambridge & Counties Bank
- Zainub Absar, HSBC

Healthcare

- Dr Sania Shahbaz Hasnain, Salaso
- Gwendoline Akpulonu, University of Glasgow
- Hannah Okechukwu, In2MedSchool
- Julie Hammond, NHS, Dr Hammond Aesthetics
- Leah Brooks, University of Sheffield
- Marjani Orchery, SMILEquity
- Naabil Khan, Skin For All
- Naireen Asim, Medical Student
- Rosemary Kafula, Leicester Medical School
- Tipswalo Day, Hywel Dda University Health Board

Insurance

- Aikaterini Valentina Paschali, Direct Line Group
- Ally Redding, Guidewire
- Annie Terry, Lockton Re
- Becki Betts, Aviva
- Caitlin McEniry, Zurich Insurance
- Hiba Hanif, PwC

- Jessica Tamman, Lloyd`s
- Nadine Teape, Lloyd`s of London
- Sarah Lightfoot, Marsh
- Sarah Watson, PwC

Investment Management

- Bhawana Haritwal, T. Rowe Price
- Courtney Lollback, Macquarie Group
- Elizabeth Merrall, Top Tier Capital Partners
- Pamela Remmer, RBC Brewin Dolphin
- Philippa Marshall, Citi Private Bank
- Sara Yemane, RBC BlueBay Asset Management
- Shauna Loughrey, RBC Brewin Dolphin
- Susanne Gardner, Aviva Investors
- Therese Kieve, Sarasin & Partners LLP
- Zixuan Wang, HSBC

Law (The Lynne Freeman Award)

- Elin Gosby, Orrick
- Firoza Dodhi, Simmons & Simmons
- Helen Penwill, Reed Smith
- Izabela Prager, Latham & Watkins
- Jessica Pinches, Black Antelope Law
- Lindsey Melnecsuk, Simmons and Simmons
- Mehrnaz Afshar, Reed Smith
- Rebecca Sanders, Royal Bank of Canada
- Rebecca Valori, Royal Bank of Canada

- Victoria Bryden, Reed Smith

Professional Services

- Alice Huang Miller, PwC
- Andriana Stampoli, Odgers Berndtson
- Carolyn Barnard, KPMG
- Faridah Ramirez, Ethos Farm
- Gemma McLaughlin, Gravita
- Jennifer Grint, FTI Consulting
- Natasha Percy-Baxter, PercyBaxter Wealth Management
- Nicola Semple, Nicola Semple Coaching
- Renata Yussupova, PwC
- Rukevwe Laura Akpwaye, PwC

Property

- Ashleigh Foreman, Barratt London
- Bethan Handley, Knight Frank
- Charlotte Hewett, Knight Frank
- Helen Lees, Fine & Country
- Joney Ramirez Soto, RPS
- Katie Dee-Davies, ParetoFM
- Leigh-Ann Smith, Barratt London
- Neetal Rajput, Slough Borough Council
- Rochelle Gordon-Blake, Knight Frank
- Stella Aichholzer, Knight Frank

Science & Engineering

- Carley Fountain, Castle Climate Control Ltd
- Dhruvi Mutta, S & P Global
- Donna Otchere, SiSTEM UK
- Frankie Thatcher, BAE Systems
- Geerthiga Parameswaran, Cleveland Clinic London
- Gillian Barber, Barber Research
- Karen Perry, Daikin UK
- Kat Draper, Mott MacDonald
- Lauren McCarthy, InSpace Missions
- Samrudhi Inamdar, AAC Clyde Space

Technology

- Faith Ida, Genesys
- Golda Thompson, Atos
- Kathy Liu, Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- Holly Mather, Enable
- Jessica Harwood, Accenture
- Mariam Hussein, Slalom
- Nicola Ironside-Skene, Bank of America
- Nishika Chetty, Renesas Electronics
- Tamara Tankosic, Accenture
- Yetunde Animashaun, Accenture / Tech432

Global Award for Achievement

- Alexandra Mercz, Synterra Asia
- Ana Isabel Sarkis Fernandez, RJC Engineers
- Catalina Vieru, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

- Kenni Konate, Freelancer
- Pooja Doshi, MIRAYA ARTS
- Róláké Omólékúlo, Morgan Stanley
- Subarna bhattacharya, BNP Paribas
- Sumedha Nagpal, Databricks, Inc.
- Tarja Porkka-Kontturi, Tarja P-K / DeepWell DTx / The Global Game Jam
- Zinet Kemal, Best Buy

Champion

- Alishya Artwell, Pareto Facilities Management
- Anna Blomqvist, HSBC Private Banking
- Hacer Evans, Accenture UKI
- Jo Lister, BAE Systems Digital Intelligence
- Katie Gerald, K.A.G. Recruitment Consultancy Ltd
- Kellie Kwarteng, Halzak / Elevate - Women in Tech
- Leeanne Adu, Leeanne Adu VA Solutions Ltd (Leave it With LAVA)
- Natalie Diana Busari, The Nerve of My Multiple Sclerosis CIC
- Pracheta Budhwar, Accenture
- Priya Rajendran, Citigroup

Men for Gender Balance

- Rob Preston, Amazon
- Dominic Baker, Marsh McLennan
- David Morgan, Royal Bank of Canada
- Dillon Anderiesz, Macquarie Group
- Harry Kelly, GSK
- Lee Burman, Morgan Stanley

- Mario Furriel, HSBC
- Pavan Ganugapati, Accenture
- Scott Freeman, Compass Group UK & Ireland
- Shaheen Mamun, Black Antelope Law

Company

- Baringa
- HSBC
- Pareto FM