



Press Release



WeAreTheCity announces shortlist for 2025 Rising Star Awards

Embargoed until 08:00, 29th April 2025

WeAreTheCity is proud to announce the shortlist for the 2025 Rising Star Awards, now in its 11th year. Sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada, the Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of over 230 remarkable role models from across the UK.

With over 1,200 nominations received, this year's Rising Stars saw a record-breaking standard of entries across a wide range of industries, reflecting the growing momentum for increased female representation in the workplace.

Dr Vanessa Vallely OBE, CEO & Founder of WeAreTheCity:

"The calibre of entries for this year's Rising Star Awards has been nothing short of phenomenal. These incredible individuals are not only excelling in their careers but are also inspiring change and driving impact within their industries. They are the future leaders, innovators and changemakers we need. I am immensely proud to celebrate their achievements and wish them the very best in the final stages of the awards."

Celebrating the next generation of talent

Among this year's nominees:

- **Ella Greenwood**, Filmmaker & Entrepreneur at Broken Flames, is creating award-winning films that challenge mental health stigma, reaching global platforms such as Amazon MGM Studios.
- **Alexia Williams**, Through Life Technical Lead at Rolls-Royce, has rapidly progressed from apprentice to technical leader, earning national recognition for her innovation and STEM advocacy.
- **Dr Marjani Orchery**, Dentist and Medical Doctor, is the founder of SMILEquity—an initiative delivering culturally tailored health education to promote equity and empower marginalised communities.

These are just a few of the exceptional women being recognised across 20 industry categories.

You can view the full shortlist [here](#).

Honouring allies and senior leaders

The Rising Star Awards also shine a spotlight on Champions—senior leaders driving gender equity—and male allies through the Men for Gender Balance category.

This year's Men for Gender Balance shortlist includes **Rajeshpal Sangha**, Global Head of Collateral Management Middle Office at Nomura, a proud British Asian leader who champions workplace diversity and inclusive leadership.

Among our 2025 Champions is **Lesley Sackey**, Founder of Fight Forward CIC and former Olympic Boxing Champion, who now leads transformative programmes using sport to empower women and young people affected by trauma and marginalisation.

Upcoming celebrations

All shortlisted individuals will be invited to a celebratory rooftop event at RBC on 28th May, where they will network with fellow nominees, judges, and sponsors.

Our 2025 Rising Stars winners will be announced on 4 June 2025 and honoured at a prestigious ceremony on 10 July 2025 at The Londoner Hotel, Leicester Square.

Please note: The winner of the Company of the Year category will be announced during the awards ceremony on 10th July.

WeAreTheCity extends sincere thanks to our panel of expert judges and to our generous sponsors for their continued support in recognising and championing the UK's pipeline of female talent.

Public Vote: Shortlisted individuals are invited to take part in a public vote from 29th April to 13th May 2025. **There is no public vote for the Champion, Company of the Year, Global Award for Achievement or Men for Gender Balance categories. Winners are determined solely by our judging panel.**

In previous years, the awards have been supported by an array of FTSE sponsors and this year is no different. The 2025 Rising Star Awards are powered by the Royal Bank of Canada and supported by Accenture, Barclays, Bloomberg, Browne Jacobson, CMI Women, Dentsu, Knight Frank, Macquarie, Maggies, Male Allies UK, Nomura, National Grid, Northern Trust, Northrop, PwC, Reed Smith, Warner Bros. Discovery and Warwick Business School.

Ayesha Patel, COO, RBC Capital Markets, Europe said, "Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) is continuing to deliver on our Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Roadmap and bring our Purpose Framework – Ideas for People and Planet™ to life. Supporting the Rising Stars Awards is a great way to support our Purpose while celebrating and showcasing incredibly talented people

and organisations across multiple industries and we are delighted to be headline sponsor for the sixth year.”

About the Company

[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](#) 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 Dr Vanessa Vallely OBE 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

