

women Empowered

Engage, Encourage, Empower, Enable

The World in
Which WE Live

www.womenempowered.co.uk



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www.facebook.com/WEWomenEmpowered

What WE Are About



Reena Ranger

Chairwoman & Co-Founder of WE

WE as we like to call ourselves and feel we are, is a wholly social initiative which aims to empower women (and men) to make the best of their individual skills and talents and help them to achieve whatever personal and professional goals they have. We work at a grass roots level, trying to ensure we are easily accessible to all who would like to reach us.

WE is open to all and we encourage men. Men are 50% of the population and need to be a part of the discussion so that we can effect change, to our own worlds and the larger one. WE always have one male speaker at each event in order to provide a male perspective.

WE is open to all women although we have a slight South Asian / BME focus. We encourage mothers to bring their daughters and everyone to bring their sisters and friends.

WE aims to :

ENGAGE more women (and men) in discussion; **ENCOURAGE** fresh and varied thinking and perspective; **EMPOWER** women (and men) to find the inner confidence to take the next step; **ENABLE** and support them through the journey by putting them in touch with organisations that can nurture their ideas and mentors who can assist in achieving those goals;

To provide a platform to enable women (and men) to articulate their issues and concerns; with a chance to meet decision makers and get their views and opinions heard.

To create a powerful and exciting network



A place to be engaged, encouraged, empowered and enabled to do whatever that special things is in your life as you see it. Held three times a year, we look to bring speakers to inspire and motivate anyone who wishes to hear them. To create a network where minded or a new range or people. We welcome men here as we do with all our other initiatives

Each event attracts 120+ attendees



A discussion group. join us and engage, embrace and enhance the debate. To take issues pertinent to our wider community and discuss what they actually mean to us; to look at perception and reality and see if in fact they are one and the same



Less lifestyle, more life! A monthly blog where the WE Community share their experiences and stories. A e to read about the things in life that aren't often talked about but probably should be



Our charitable arm. Together we can make a change to the lives of people around us by donating our time, resources and raising awareness for various causes

Speakers at the Event

Our speakers will share their experiences and insights as to how one person can shape the world in which we live.



**The Rt. Hon.
The Baroness Warsi**

British Pakistani lawyer, politician and a conservative parliamentarian, who co-chaired the Conservative Party. First Muslim Cabinet Minister, Party Chairman 2010-2012, Minister for Faith and Communities and Senior Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth office 2012-2014



Yalda Hakim

Yalda Hakim is the presenter of flagship programme, Impact on BBC World News. Yalda continues to deliver hard hitting journalism not only for the Our World strand, but also for BBC News. Yalda was born in Afghanistan and moved to Australia in the late 1980s after her father fled Kabul with his family when Russia invaded



Ayesha Mustafa

Ayesha Mustafa, social entrepreneur and founder of Fashion ComPassion works with brands that employ marginalized communities and skilled artisans from all over the world, who work under the direct tutelage of some of the finest designers. Fashion ComPassion provides a global platform for these groups Ayesha is now considered to be a thought leader on ethical fashion and has been interviewed by CNBC Arabia and SKY News and is a contributor on The Guardian Sustainable Business. Ayesha is among BBC's #100Women for 2014.



Sathnam Sanghera

Sathnam Sanghera is a award winning British journalist and author of Marriage Material: A Novel and The Boy With The Topknot: A Memoir of Love, Secrets and Lies in Wolverhampton. From 1998 and 2006 he was a reporter and feature writer for the Financial Times. He joined The Times as a columnist and feature writer in 2007. He also writes for Management Today magazine.

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Write for GRIT



Sunita Behl
Editor GRIT

I am delighted to have been asked to be Editor of GRIT and to help support the Women Empowered community. I believe words have the power to change lives. You can change someone's point of view, their aspirations and even their beliefs. If you have a passion, an inspirational story or a cause that's close to your heart then WE want to hear from you. GRIT is your opportunity to have your say and talk about the gritty things that matter in your life. Words have the power to change lives. And WE can't wait to hear yours.

Each article needs to be submitted to grit@womenempowered.co.uk on the 20th of the preceding month (eg an article for June should be submitted by 20th May). The newsletter will go out on the 5th of each month to our subscribers and will be uploaded on our website and our social media will direct to it. All submission should be between 400-700 words. More details at <http://www.womenempowered.co.uk/grit.html>

2015 GRIT Topics

APRIL - Women and the Vote

MAY – The Relationships that Change you

JUNE – Health, Body and Soul

JULY - Money Matters

AUG - My Entrepreneur Story

SEPTEMBER – Sewa (Selfless Service) Special

OCTOBER – Inspiring Role Models – The Real Heroes

NOVEMBER - Body Image and Self-esteem

DECEMBER - 2015 highlights - 'Letter to myself'

WE needs YOU!

Thank you.

Our Champions



Rajesh Agrawal
Chairman, Founder and CEO - RationalFX



Rukhsana Ali
Director, Venus TV Global Ltd



Nina Amin
Diversity Ambassador - KPMG



Sunny and Shay Grewal
Presenters and Broadcasters - BBC London & BBC Asian Network



Cllr Lurline Champagnie OBE
Chairman, Harrow West Conservative Association, Councillor Pinner Ward, London Borough of Harrow, Harrow Mayor (2004/5)



Cllr. Mrs Mimi Harker OBE
Mayor of Amersham, Amersham Town Council, Cabinet Member Responsible for Community, Young People, Communications, Sports & Leisure, Chiltern District Council, Parliamentary Candidate 2005



Dr Kamel K Hothi
Business & Community Director, Lloyds Bank - Group Corporate Affairs



Tasmin Lucia-Khan
News Anchor and TV Host



Kanya King MBE
Entrepreneur, Public Speaker and CEO/Founder of MOBO Organisation



Seema Malhotra MP
Member of Parliament for Feltham and Heston



Natasha Mudhar
CEO & MD of Sterling Media



Mona Remtulla
Co-Founder of WE & WE Champion

Our Champions



Ruby McGregor-Smith CBE
Chief Executive - MITIE Group PLC



Anjali Pathak
Chef and food writer



Alpesh Patel
Co-author, 'Our Turn: The ultimate start-up guide for female entrepreneurs'
Former Visiting Fellow in Business, Corpus Christi College, Oxford
Founder Praefinium Partners



Priti Patel
MP, Member of Parliament for Witham



Rishi Rich
Song Writer / Music Producer / Artist Management



Kulveer Singh Ranger
Global City Adviser
Former Adviser to Mayor of London
Former Vice-Chairman of The Conservative Party (Cities)



Kiran Sharma
Managing Director of KIKIT Ltd and Manager to singer Prince

Read our champion's statements at: www.womenempowered.co.uk

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you, me & **we**

together we can make a change

women
Empowered



Kajal Patel
Co-ordinator You, Me & WE

I am delighted to be heading the charitable arm of Women Empowered. I have been a supporter of the WE initiative and believe that we are all capable of making a difference and as a collective WE the difference can be huge. We have projects throughout the year and are always looking for people who would be interested in working with us to make a difference. Please get in touch if you could be one of them – any contribution is welcome and what little you can do, can mean a great deal to someone else.



Future Projects:

Friday 13th Feb - SEVA CARE HOME, based in Harrow is a residential home to 8 elderly women. We on a regular basis visit the care home to spend some quality time with these ladies, talking, sing, dancing, Reading and snacking with them. They really no enjoy our company and look forward to our visits.

Thursday 5th & 19th March - SWAT. It will be a opportunity for us to help the homeless. They have volunteers who go out and feed the homeless every week Sundays and on Thursday every other week. As this will be an opportunity for us to help the homeless, WE are looking to put a team of volunteers together to help out.

Friday 15th May - Charity Lunch

For more infomation email Kajal at we@womenempowered.co.uk



Creating and Seizing Opportunities!

Women Empowered 's latest event on Thursday 9th October at Bright Courtyard in Baker Street, explored how one can create and seize opportunities. The evening commenced with Reena Ranger, Founder and Chairman of Women Empowered (WE) addressing and asking the guests "Life is constantly changing, throwing new challenges, opportunities and disappointments our way and is it possible that with a new perspective we can see our situations in a different light and take ownership of what is and create something new; maybe identifying and seizing the smaller, less obvious opportunities around us will help us reach our goal faster than waiting for the big one to come along. So today we ask: Are obstacles and disappointments opportunities in disguise? How do we identify what is a possible opportunity. How do we stop fear and self-doubt from holding us back? She went on to say, "Our speakers today have done just that, created their own paths from disappointments, changed careers and now can help others and effect policy and their actions can have a lasting impact on the population or simply revolutionized an industry and the way millions conduct their transactions daily"

The first speaker, Kavita Oberoi OBE of Oberoi Consulting, started her own firm after missing out on a promotion at work. She said, "You learn in many ways, you are learning every single day along the way". She cited her secret to success as "Desperation, Perspiration, Aspiration and Inspiration. Be passionate about what you do, if you aren't ready for something then it isn't going to work; visualise your dreams". She spoke of her background starting from her entrepreneurial father and the work ethic she witnessed from his example and her mother recognizing the potential in her daughter and how she encouraged her in every avenue and supported her dreams, sometimes in secret. She spoke about the importance of education as it always gives you something to fall back on. She shared her personal story of how she juggled family expectations with her aspirations and went on to explain how sometimes difficult and stifling cultural circumstances never held her back as she always found a way to overcome them and was always determined to succeed and when she was told she couldn't do something it galvanized her further to succeed. She spoke of the importance of role models and mentors to push and guide you along the way. For high resolution image, please click on the photograph



Valerie Vaz MP was elected as the Member of Parliament for Walsall South in May 2010 after 20 years in politics on the road to becoming an MP. She spoke of the challenges she faced in the political landscape and how taking a chance on a seat and seizing an opportunity was ultimately the key to her election. She talked about chances in life and not to think of excuses not to do something, "Don't wait to be asked, see an opportunity and take it. There will be obstacles but you will find a way to go around them." Valerie, a qualified solicitor, spoke of how family support, strength and example are vital. Growing up in Aden, Yemen, showed her the opportunities available to people as people were not judged on sex, race or skin colour. Growing up, her parents encouraged her to be whatever she wanted to be and to fully realise her potential. "You have to be yourself, each one of us is unique we all have our unique talents, every one of us has our own journey and own individual story". "Every single thing you do is a piece of skill that can be used at a later date and you may not know when you will need to use it, all expertise is worthwhile and useful". Don't think twice, you know you can do it and see obstacles as something you can overcome". Dinesh Dhamija, founder of Ebookers.com,

talked about starting his own business from a kiosk in Earls Court and how he grew it along with his wife over 25 years. He recounted the story about how seizing an opportunity when he was asked to act as a box office. This opened up more opportunities for him and encouraged all present to seize them as they came along. He spoke about investing in yourself to open more opportunities and how creating them combined with a little luck has been the key to his success. He spoke of thinking big and believing you are going to do it. He jumped at the new phenomenon of the "internet" and went from selling airline tickets from a kiosk to a website. He said, "We then went to selling to 60 million people in the UK and then over 300 million people in Europe."

He told the audience that an internet year is like a dog year and that was his thinking when he paid vast sums to new internet providers for exclusive deals for travel in parts of Europe. Although at the time of the sale of ebookers.com, he valued the company at more than it sold for, his wife reminded him that it was a good time to exit and that too was seizing an opportunity!



Reena Ranger closed with, "Women Empowered has always been in the business of promoting that you can be anyone you want to be and achieve anything you want to achieve. We have always been advocates of each one of us being the best possible versions of ourselves as we see and wish it to be and I am sure that today's wisdoms and advice would have helped many of us be one step closer to this goal."

Entrepreneurial stall holders at the event were Raishma Islam with her ready to wear clothing, Neetika Hora for bespoke outfits for any occasion, Sonali Malhotra of Sonali's Creations with her ethnic jewellery range, Rubina Kapoor who launched her Diwali silverware range at the event and Bhavani Kalaria of the London Law Practice who offered free initial legal consultations for those present. WE Focus a new initiative from Women Empowered was also launched at the event. This is going to be a discussion on pertinent topics by up to 15 members of the WE community. More details will be available online and on the WE Facebook page. The first meeting is scheduled for mid November 2014.



Our Last Event.

