



Presents

**Is it a Man's World?**

**women  
Empowered**

**Engage, Encourage, Empower, Enable**

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**@ WE\_Empowered**

# Women Empowered

## What WE Are About

Women Empowered or WE as we feel we are and like to call ourselves, is a wholly social initiative which aims to empower women 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, even 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 is open to all women although we have a slight South Asian focus, women of the same age can be at very different junctures of their lives.

WE aims to be broad and provide an array of speakers on the same topic at each event so that women can find applicability and can find an affinity with one or more of them to make the difference to their lives.

That difference is not about achieving fame or fortune, it can be overcoming an illness, finding the right way to empower our children or starting our own businesses - whatever that special thing is, it is the thing that makes the difference to our life as we see it.

WE will showcase inspirational speakers who will share their experiences and opinions and through their stories and journeys WE aims to:

**ENGAGE** more women in discussion;

**ENCOURAGE** fresh and varied thinking and perspective;

**EMPOWER** women 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 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 for women to link up and help each other.

Our events will consist of: Guest speakers to **ENGAGE** and **ENCOURAGE** and a partner organisation that can **EMPOWER** and **ENABLE** women to make that change.

WE aims to provide women a forum, a platform and a network where they could find support, mentoring and inspiration to try and get out of life everything they wanted and to 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.



**Reena Ranger**  
Chairwoman & Founder of WE



**Mona Remtulla**  
Co-Founder of WE

Read more about WE at:  
[www.womenempowered.co.uk](http://www.womenempowered.co.uk)

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# Women at KPMG



**Nina Amin**  
Diversity Ambassador  
KPMG

Not so very long ago it would have been highly unusual, even exceptional, to have seen a woman commanding a high position in the world of business or politics. You only need to look at the list of distinguished speakers at this event to see how far the world has moved on over the past few decades.

Of course we do still live in a world in which much of the decision-making power lies with men. But this does not mean that women cannot strive to reach the top of their chosen professions. The list of inspirational speakers at this event shows that in all walks of life women are making best use of our incredible potential. We have taken enormous strides in so many prominent areas, from politics to business and community affairs, and we are making an impact, getting our voices heard and making our influence felt.

We are starting to see more women holding top positions in leading organisations. For instance, Marianne Fallon, who will be speaking at this conference, is a member of KPMG's Executive Board, its highest decision-making body. The firm has now appointed Marianne to look specifically at the diversity within our working structure, showing the strength of its commitment to this issue.

KPMG's value lies in its people and the firm is dedicated to offering a bright future to all its talented and dedicated women. KPMG is proud of its attractive maternity and paternity leave packages and flexible working arrangements which help its staff balance career commitments with family lives and personal development.

But the firm's commitment to diversity extends beyond this. KPMG's emerging leaders programme encourages and supports those individuals who are destined for great things in their field, and many of them are women.

Building on the fact that women tend to be more relationship oriented, KPMG has started women-only networking groups. Having a group of solid connections is a powerful and essential tool to forging a successful professional life, but an area from which many women have been excluded in the past.

This shows just how KPMG's goals are fully aligned with those of Women Empowered in enabling women to make the best of their individual skills and talents and in helping them to achieve their professional goals. This is why the firm is proud to sponsor this event at which women leading in their fields will talk about their personal journeys to success. If young women can be encouraged and motivated by our stories, then we can hope that soon we will no longer be asking the question of whose world it is – it will be a place where all those of ability, talent and dedication can thrive, regardless of their gender.

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# Our Key Note Speaker:



## Kulveer Singh Ranger

Global City Adviser

Former Adviser to Mayor of London

Former Vice-Chairman of The Conservative Party (Cities)

### Is it a man's world....?

I don't think so but, it can look and feel like it is.

Grandmothers, mothers, wives, sisters, daughters – the women of the world play their part in the lives of all people on this planet, but especially us men. They undertake the miracle of child birth, they nurture and support, and have an over powering maternal instinct that most men can struggle to comprehend let alone replicate.

But it can be said that the balance in our broader world is not quite right. As someone who has worked in both industry and the political world, I can definitely say that women are not equally represented – then again this is not news! From the board room to the cabinets that surround political leaders – men dominate.

Why? Is there a bias against women? A glass ceiling...an old boys network... even secret anti-women societies..... Is it that their brains are wired differently? Is it because they can't read maps? Or is it just – as they thought in medieval times – that any strong willed woman is just a witch!

Personally – I think it has nothing to do with the aforementioned differences. As someone who has walked into businesses, organisations and addressed global conferences, and never seen anyone else who looked like me, I have often wondered why....? Why are there not more Sikhs in these arenas? Are we not good enough? Smart enough? Or do we not care enough... do we not have enough ambition? These questions can also be posed at the female gender. Is the fairer sex just not up to the job?

Again – I definitely don't think so! What I do believe is the old adage... success breeds success, and as such role models lead to more people who can be inspired by them and follow. So how can we address this imbalance? There is no simple answer but quotas, positive discrimination, or any kind of unjustified support will just look unfair and tends to deliver a lipstick result that does not last, and in the long term can be more detrimental. A focus on role models, highlighting not just the 'what' but also the 'how'. How women take the road to achievement, the challenges faced and the levels of tenacity required. Fundamentally, successful women will inspire more women to be successful.

I would like to congratulate Women Empowered in their efforts to inspire women and am proud to support them and their aim.

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# Is it a Man's World?

Sponsored by



We are privileged to be addressed by and then have a Q&A discussion with women from the world of politics. Traditionally once regarded as male dominated or a controlled profession; we will hear their views, journeys and opinions on whether they are still women in a man's world or has the landscape changed. We will explore how they feel about the changes being made to encourage more women into public life and why there is a real need for more female representation. We are also being addressed by speakers to understand why diversity is important and also seeking a male perspective.

## Our Speakers:



### **Kulveer Singh Ranger**

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



### **Marianne Fallon**

Partner, Executive Board Member,  
UK Head of Corporate Affairs,  
UK Head of Charities  
KPMG



### **Seema Malhotra MP**

Member of Parliament for  
Feltham and Heston



### **Priti Patel MP**

Member of Parliament for Witham



### **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

Read more about our speakers at:  
[www.womenempowered.co.uk](http://www.womenempowered.co.uk)

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# Our Champions



**Rajesh Agrawal**

Chairman, Founder and CEO - RationalFX



**Nina Amin**

Diversity Ambassador - KPMG



**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



**Ruby McGregor-Smith CBE**

Chief Executive - MITIE Group PLC

Read our champion's statements at:  
[www.womenempowered.co.uk](http://www.womenempowered.co.uk)

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# Our Champions



**Anjali Pathak**

Brand Ambassador - Culinary Development - Patak's Foods



**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](http://www.womenempowered.co.uk)

# Media Partners



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# Women in Politics



**Priti Patel MP**  
Member of Parliament for Witham

"As a female Member of Parliament, it is difficult to believe that just one hundred years ago there were no female representatives in either of the Houses of Parliament. We have come a long way since Nancy Astor's election as the first female MP in 1919 and in an ever-changing world, it is more vital than ever that women become involved in their communities, society and politics.

The key to this is ensuring that our community leaders and champions are given the confidence and support that they need to believe that they can make a difference and to ensure that women see politics as something for them and as an avenue for creating positive change.

Almost one hundred years on from women getting the vote in the UK, under 25% of our Parliamentarians are women and this is an issue we need to address. We must also remember, however, that our country has a record to be proud of on women's rights and we have a rich history of strong female leaders, such as Elizabeth I and the first (and so far only) female Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. More recently, the 2012 Olympic Games - held in London - showed a landmark, whereby women represented all 204 participating nations for the first time in the history of the Games. We should use Britain's unique and influential position to show our support for gender equality across the world and to advocate equality of opportunity regardless of gender. The only route to this goal is to systematically change the attitudes toward politics of, and more importantly by, women. Education is undoubtedly the key to this and an example of a positive step in this area would be the recent 'Send my Sister to School' campaign, which made the case for education for girls, on the same basis as boys, across the world.

I have never believed that women should be given a 'leg up' on any ladder, but simply that there should be an equal starting point. It would be wrong and patronising to promote or favour women on the basis of their gender, but what we must ensure is that we concentrate on changing attitudes and improving education and skills to ensure that future generations of women are able to shape their own futures and the futures of the communities and societies they live in. "

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The Fabian Women's Network is a network of over 1500 women, working to support and encourage women's engagement in policy and politics.

We take a lead in promoting policy that has the needs of women at its heart.

We bring women from across the country, from politics, industry, education and the media together to share knowledge, skills and opportunities.

#### Fabiana

We established Fabiana in 2011 on a new wave of British feminism and the magazine is now leading cutting edge debates on how to equip the UK for growth, reform our economy and the state, and how to encourage more women in science.

#### Events

We hold events on a range of subjects as well as regular receptions attracting up to 300 women. FWN held women's hustings for both the 2010 Labour party leadership election and the 2007 deputy leadership elections. Our events are attended by movers and shakers from all sectors.

#### Political education and mentoring programme

We are proud of our mentoring programme, now in its second year. The programme lasts one year and is open to women who want to move forward in political or public life. FWN mentees thrive both in politics, as they apply for parliamentary selections, and in many other sectors.

#### Networking

We offer our members a unique opportunity to build networks and share ideas, skills and opportunities. In addition to our annual receptions we have recently launched our monthly informal networking drinks in central London. There are plans to extend these to other parts of the country.

#### Find out more:



@FabianWomen



facebook.com/  
FabianWomen

Or sign up to our newsletter by emailing [fabianwomen@fabians.org.uk](mailto:fabianwomen@fabians.org.uk)

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# Women Empowered



**Seema Malhotra MP**  
Member of Parliament for  
Feltham and Heston

*Speakers from the corporate world and a panel discussion from women in the world of politics. Traditionally once regarded as male dominated or controlled professions; hear their views, journeys and opinions on whether they are still women in a man's world or has the landscape changed.*

Is politics still a man's world? Yes in many ways, but hopefully even that will change through the next generation. Politics has always been a world in which women have negotiated space back from men. A culture that started up as a men's club where women literally stood on the sidelines and watched (the mesh through which they watched is still part of the interior at Parliament) is still one that can persist, but is inevitably being rebalanced through modernization of political parties and the House of Commons administration.

In November I spoke on a panel with the Speaker and other parliamentarians at a gender conference in Parliament organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Women in Parliament from all around the world were meeting to share perspectives and challenges, and I have no doubt that at this very moment, many of those women will be pushing forward more modernization ideas in their own Parliaments.

Change is not inevitable – progress needs an owner and a driver to steer it through the roadblocks. Perhaps most fascinating that day was the Speaker's own story as a Conservative man, who perhaps partly as a father of young children, realized more needed to change at Westminster. The conversion of a bar to a nursery for use by Members or staff at Westminster was a delicate negotiation over long period of time. I spoke about my own journey as a woman who grew up above a shop in Hounslow, daughter of a teacher and engineer, with no family background in politics. I am lucky to have had coaching and support every step of the way as I have forged my own pathway, with lessons from my journey having been an inspiration for the Fabian Women's Network Political Education and Mentoring Programme that is now in its second year.

Progress in different sectors often happens in parallel also, because the appearance of women in one area spawns awareness and change in another. That's partly because we bring our lives into our work, and into our conversation. Over the last year in the House it has been women leading the debates about progress of women in business, women on boards, women in science and engineering, women in politics. Indeed an issue I am currently working on – the gender gap in entrepreneurship and how we tackle it through better business support services – is not one that has had much air time in the Parliament, despite the thousands of women wanting to start and grow their own firms. This is despite UN and OECD conferences on the matter over many years. A report by the Women's Enterprise Task Force which ran from 2006-2009 found that businesses run by women contribute £130 billion annually to the UK economy – despite women currently being only half as likely as men to set up a business. Home Office research also suggests that £42 billion would be added to the UK economy if we had the same level of female entrepreneurship as in the US, and if women started businesses at the same rate as men there could be an additional 150,000 extra start-ups each year in the UK.

What more can make a difference? Certainly the growth and development of women's networks make a huge difference. The phenomenon of women's networks supported and enabled by social media that help keep women connected is a characteristic of our time, and the current wave of change. The next stage however will need to be a greater partnership with men who will need to take a stand themselves to see more change happen. Recently I read about men who have started to accept panel invitations only when there is at least one female speaker. I launched a campaign in 2011 to end all male panels through a boycott of events by women – for men to be taking a stand to encourage the end of all-male panels is really inspiring even to me.

This is a great conversation to be having – progress has a much better chance of being permanently secured with Women Empowered and other organizations keeping the pressure on and being powerful forces for change.

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What do a celebrity chef in England, a teacher in a remote village in Pakistan, a social entrepreneur, a globally acclaimed finance expert and IT students from an urban slum in India have in common?

**They are donors, charity partners and beneficiaries of The British Asian Trust.**

Over 500 million people survive on less than £1 a day in South Asia. With competing charities dealing with problems such as chronic malnutrition, lack of education and employment, health problems and the marginalisation of women and girls, it is little wonder that people who want to donate money are uncertain as to where to start.

Every individual donation that comes to The Trust enables us to support charities in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the UK. **It is a long-term investment which creates a greater impact for those in need.**

This is where The British Asian Trust comes in. We are committed to bringing together leading members of the British Asian diaspora from celebrities and entrepreneurs to some of the world's largest companies and charitable foundations with existing local grassroots charities to make a difference. These extraordinary links together with the power of collective giving is what sets us apart from other charities.

By supporting handpicked charities, we are able to empower local communities on the ground and transform lives by offering innovative and practical solutions to social and economic problems, enabling them to move towards self-sufficiency. The impact is there for everyone to see: Since its inception in 2007, The British Asian Trust has touched 800,000 lives through supporting 24 handpicked charities. However, there is a lot to be done – we aim to reach out to over 2 million people in the coming five years.

Should you wish to come together with us on our journey, please do get in touch [madhu@britishasiantrust.org](mailto:madhu@britishasiantrust.org) or 0207 024 5646



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# Believe, and you can do!



## Cllr. Mrs Mimi Harker OBE

Mayor of Amersham

Cabinet Member responsible for Community,  
Young People, Sports and Leisure and Communications

Ladies and Gentlemen, just a thought:

If we had a level playing field, would there be a need for Women Empowered. If it was not still a man's world, the ethos of WE and other similar forums, created to empower women, especially women from ethnic minority groups would not be in existence.

Interestingly, a friend of mine from the Government Equalities Office, when we were out recently, stated how fantastic it was that two gay men could hold hands in public and nobody batted an eyelid any more. She was quite right. And it is fantastic that we no longer have such hang-ups about being gay, however, I did point out very gently that women from ethnic minority backgrounds would be ecstatic with the same acceptance in all spheres of life. We still have a long road ahead of us – but we are getting there! And only the ostriches within our communities say we are fine!

Believe, and you can do! If you sit on the sidelines, nothing will ever change. Be the pebble, make the ripples, be the one to ring the changes, don't wait for others. Be the mover and the shaker; be the thinker as well as the doer. If we all did that, in whatever way we could, we would change the world and not just our own world. Nobody said it would be easy. But success tastes all the sweeter, when you have worked so very hard to achieve it.



## Conservative Women's Organisation

Originally formed in the 1880's, the CWO is the oldest women's political organisation in the world. The CWO is:

- The grassroots network that provides **support and focus** for women in the Conservative Party
- **Reaching out** to women in all parts of the community
- **Campaigning** on issues of particular concern to women both nationally and internationally
- Encouraging women to be politically active and to **get elected at all levels**
- Ensuring that the **women's perspective** is taken into account because women see things differently to men
- Helping the Conservative Party **capture the women's vote**

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Promoted by Alan Mabbutt on behalf of the CWO, both at 30 Millbank, London, SW1P 4DP

# The Cosmopolitan Community



**Cllr Lurline Champagne  
OBE**

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

In this essay, I am keen to set out my beliefs and attitude towards inter-ethnic relations and my radical alternative to multiculturalism. In it I highlight:

- Why there is no proper discussion of ethnic relations in Britain
- My call to end political correctness
- My new approach to ethnicity through the Cosmopolitan Community
- How the Cosmopolitan Community will work and benefit everyone.

## The dynamics of human society

Human society perpetually involves tensions, both positive and negative. Not only that, these tensions are in a constant state of flux.

Even if the make-up of a community were to stay constant for while, you could appreciate the effect of a factor such as a growing or shrinking economy would have. Different elements would be affected in different ways, resulting in the quality of life diverging between different groups.

If on the other hand, instead of constancy, the make up a community is altering all the time – with an in – and out-flow of people from different cultures – a matrix of very different effects develops across the different elements. The net effect of which is very hard to read and more difficult to predict.

Some things, though, are predictable. If an obvious divergence opens up between certain groups and is left unchecked for any length of time, social tensions inevitably arise.

I want to highlight exactly this dynamic within the fabric of our community in London. For hundreds of years, but particularly over the last six decades and especially since 1997, the rate of influx to London from very different international groups has been extraordinary. London is a phenomenally rich assortment of peoples, colours, races, religions, faiths and traditions – a heterogeneous mix to be proud of.

But I would like you to think about your answer to these questions for me:

- Do you believe that every citizen of London is an equal stakeholder in this great city of ours?
- Do you believe that the remarkable opportunities available in this city are unconditionally open to all?
- Do you believe that the fabric and structure of London should be preserved completely unchanged?

If you answer NO to any of these questions then I urge you to join me. Let us advocate and lead a change in attitude, thinking and practice.

Why, though, has such a simple objective not been attempted to induce action before now? From my perspective, the answer is simple.

## Why does Britain have issues with inter-group relations?

Since the 1960s in Britain, the entire subject of inter-group relations has been taboo – stigmatized. The over-sensitive left and elements of the media have rendered any discussion about this subject utterly radioactive.

But just because no one has been allowed to talk about inter-group relations has not made any of the associated issues go away. Far from it. Unaddressed, they have actually festered and grown to be far, far worse than before.

Moreover, the radioactivity conferred on this subject has created an additional evil of its own. Had there not been a taboo on talking about inter-group relations and race, political correctness would never have come into being. Rational, considered debate would never have allowed such irrationality, innate inequality and paranoia to be tolerated.

Political correctness is morally wrong. It is unequal and is unfair. It expects some groups to be disproportionately tolerant while it encourages others to hide their intolerance behind totally unreasonable sensitivity.

I say it is time to end the tyranny of political correctness – right now!

## The alternative

Instead of radioactivity and the lunacy of political correctness, I want to talk about inter-group relations – I want to advocate a celebration of diversity.

How does this come about?

It comes about through a radical new approach: the Cosmopolitan Community. The Cosmopolitan Community excites participation, it re-balances tolerance and it creates expectations for all. At its heart, the Cosmopolitan Community is and open meritocracy.

## The Cosmopolitan Community

The word Cosmopolitan beautifully describes the existing make-up of London – as it is truly made up of people with backgrounds from all over the world. Unlike multiculturalism, though, Cosmopolitan does not imply separation – it revels in and glorifies the collective diversity of culture, groupings and backgrounds.

Moreover, in an external context, London as Cosmopolitan – in the sense of worldly – absolutely encapsulates the international excitement and status of our Capital in the world.

Above all, Cosmopolitan is an aspirational state that is positive; is inclusive; and is an emotionally intelligent approach to discussing and glorifying diversity.

## How does the Cosmopolitan Community come about?

The Cosmopolitan Community is not a call for legislation. It is not a call for taxation. It is not a call for government spending. The Cosmopolitan Community is a call for a change in attitude and behavior by us all.

There are no laws in this country governing fairness while we wait for something. But everyone in Britain diligently forms queues every day for life. Everyone feels this is right. Moreover the practice is self-policed. The reason we queue is that we all see that it is innately fair and more efficient for all.

I am advocating the same dynamic for the Cosmopolitan Community. This will not be underpinned by the paranoid tyranny of highly subjective political correctness but by the uncomplicated maxim of: "Do as you would be done by" and the Test of Role Reversal. It simply asks people to be considerate, thoughtful of others, open-minded and driven by the thought of how people in any situation would feel if the roles were reversed.

## The benefits of the Cosmopolitan Community

The social, psychological, and economic benefits of celebrating the Cosmopolitan Community in this way would be enormous. Moreover, the benefits play to everyone's self-interest.

Professionally and economically it would explode our skills base, cultural and artistic creativity – the creative equivalent of 'hybrid vigour'. London's economy and employment prospects would be enriched. And socially, given the hideous systems manifested by 7/7, it would aim to create a feeling of social inclusion and, and thereby, nurture tender shoots of social harmony. Pursuing anything that aims to reduce or remove the sense of exclusion – said to motivate some of our own citizens to do harm to their fellow citizens or their property – has to worthwhile and do the benefit of all.

## Leading the establishment of the Cosmopolitan Community

Establishing the Cosmopolitan Community will take leadership. Charismatic, emotionally intelligent leadership. It will take someone with the ability to build bridges and connectivity between people currently deeply suspicious of others. Institutional or governmental posts certainly would provide appropriate platforms from which to offer this leadership and help speed up the emergence of better community relations.

So much of politics is about impression and perception. If advocated by the wrong person, the Cosmopolitan Community could be rendered still born – worse, it could be seen as patronizing, condescending or tokenistic.

I am asking for a mandate to establish the Cosmopolitan Community here in London and to build a community for all its citizens that will be the envy of the world and a model for other cities everywhere.

Lurline Champagne

January 2007

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# Raising Awareness

For over 90 years Enham Trust has supported adults with physical and learning disability to live the lives they choose

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Disability doesn't distinguish between wealth or background

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# Our Next Event – Book Launch

## *A Woman's Guide To* **“Having It All Now!”**

*An inspirational journey to  
becoming a Superwoman!*

*Having It All Now* is the new inspirational self-help title by multi-award winning lawyer, entrepreneur and public speaker Ritu Sethi. **Voted Asian Business Woman of the Year in 2000 and Businesswoman of the year 2008 at the Asian Woman of Excellence Awards**, Ritu Sethi has established herself as an independent force within the business world. She is also a devoted wife and mother who was able to build her own business and become hugely successful. And now she shares her secret and reveals on how you can do the same...



*Winner of First Women Awards*

**Wednesday 6th March 2013 at 7pm**

Limited Complimentary tickets available for friends of WE.

Please contact us on

**we@womenempowered.co.uk**

For more information about the author, please visit: [www.ritusethi.com](http://www.ritusethi.com)

**A Woman's Guide To**  
**Having It**  
**All NOW**

*An Inspirational Journey to becoming  
a Superwoman!*



# Our Launch Event

On Thursday, 24th May 2012; under the high glass ceiling of the sunny Atrium at the Bright Courtyard Club in Baker Street, 120 attendees came together at the Women Empowered Launch Event. The high profile Launch was attended by many high profile guests, many of who are WE's Champions, including Mayor of Amersham Cllr Mimi Harker OBE, Seema Malhotra MP, MOBO Awards Founder Kanya King MBE, Dr Kamel Hothi; Business & Community Director at Lloyds Bank Group, brand ambassador of Patak's food; Anjali Pathak, Mrs Nina Amin; Diversity Ambassador KPMG, Author; Alpesh B Patel, TV Presenter; Tasmin Lucia-Khan and London Mayor Boris Johnson's former Director of Environment and Digital London; Kulveer Ranger. WE's other champions include Pritti Patel MP, Kiran Sharma; Manager to PRINCE and managing director of KIKIT Ltd, Cllr Lurline Champagnie OBE and Ruby Mc Gregor-Smith CBE; Chief Executive MITIE Group PLC. Other notable guests included Baroness Shreela Flather, music producer Rishi Rich and Ch4 "The Family's" stars and radio presenters; Sunny & Shay Grewal.



The Key note speaker was Baroness Sandip Verma, Minister for Women and Equalities and Whip for the Cabinet Office. The other speakers were Ms Tasmin Lucia-Khan, (TV Presenter and News Anchor) and Entrepreneur Geeta Sidhu-Robb (CEO and Founder of Nosh Detox).

Baroness Verma said the launch of WE shows that work still needs to be done to get a fair deal for women in society. No society can move forward whilst treating more than half of its population as unequal. She pledged her support to inspire those women who do not have easy access to professional networks.

Ms Tasmin Lucia-Khan narrated her own story and how she overheard her father talking of how he had wished she, his first child, had been born a boy. To date she felt this in her heart and tried her best to act as if she was a boy for her father. She was appalled by the violence against women in society and that it must be addressed in earnest. She was heartbroken to see young girls in Bangladesh selling their bodies for food and she would like to do her best to alleviate the plight of such girls and is a supporter of the charity Restless Beings for which she raised awareness.

Ms Geeta Sidhu-Robb, an entrepreneur, described how both her marriages left her in despair and how she decided to take charge of her life when one day she found herself on the road penniless. As a result of her courage she went on to become a success and found fulfilment in life.

Chairwomen and Co-founder, Reena Ranger, spoke about how women are multi talented, hardworking and committed and how as British Asians she was privileged to have so many examples to learn from. From the Queen who has been serving her people for 60 years with dignity and grace whilst being a wife, a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. It just goes to prove women can do extraordinary things when given the opportunity.

Image(s) courtesy of CRR Photography

# Our Launch Event

Reena continued "We many not all agree with their politics but you can not doubt the strength and capability of women such as, Baroness Thatcher who turned Briton from a sick man of Europe to the most prosperous economy in just 10 years, as Prime Minister of our country, and changed the fortunes of millions of people. We have the late Indira Gandhi, the late Benazir Bhutto, the incumbent president of India, her Excellency Pratibha Patil, Sheikh Hasina, the prime minister of Bangladesh, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 3 time prime minster of Sri Lanka, and of course Aung San Suu Kyi and so many others."

Co-Founder Mona Remtulla said the aims of WE are to provide women with a forum, a platform and a network where they can find support, mentoring and inspiration to try and get out of life everything they want and to 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. WE aims to be broad and provide an array of speakers on the same topic at each event so that women can find applicability and can find an affinity with one or more of them to make the difference to their lives.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr Rajesh Agrawal CEO of RationalFX. He said he was happy to sponsor the launch as he felt WE is a worthy cause and should be supported.

Thanks was also given to Bea's of Bloomsbury for their cupcakes and to CRR Photography.



Image(s) courtesy of Redhotcurry.com

# Entrepreneurship Event

On Wednesday September 26 over 150 men and women gathered under the clear glass dome of The Bright Courtyard Club in Baker Street for the Women Empowered (WE) Entrepreneurship event.

The Panellists, Sally Overhead of Mojomums, Kiran Sharma Managing Director of KIKIT Ltd and Manager to singer Prince, Anjali Pathak, Brand Ambassador Culinary Development Patak's Foods, Chef & Food Writer and Rupinder Virdee Director of Revolution Creative Agency shared their journeys on how they started and grew successful businesses.

Alpesh Patel Co-author, 'Our Turn: The ultimate start-up guide for female entrepreneurs' and founder of Praefinium Partners spoke passionately about the need for more women entrepreneurs saying that they were needed to save the world. He stressed that they were needed to be key decision makers and influencers so that they not only contributed to the world economically but could then make strides in ensuring social justice was carried out.

Reena Ranger, chairwoman and co-founder of WE said that the organization thought that the traditional definition of entrepreneur had evolved and now with the boom of mumpreneurs (that mother who starts a business so that she can combine working with looking after her children or just a mum in business) the entrepreneurial landscape had changed. Finding a work and family balance is not easy and with the holidays children are given off school combined with the state of the economy many women are finding the best way to solve their employment needs is to start their own enterprises and create employment for themselves and others. Women are turning their hobbies into income streams or are taking their formal job training one step further and starting up their own businesses. It is said that women are natural born entrepreneurs, naturally tuned to communicate, build relationships, are arguably more creative and multi tasking is the norm and this event was to showcase and highlight these attributes and encourage women who wanted to take that next step.



Mona Remtulla, co-founder of WE, introduced the panel as diverse and was sure that those present who had wanted to find their special something would, with the words and wisdom of the panellists, be encouraged and empowered to take that next step. She also thanked two entrepreneurs for their contribution to the event; Reshma of CRR Photography for the pictures the world would see and Sophia Wasu of the Egg Free Cake Box and praised the sponsor for the event, Hassanain Remtulla of Desynz for their generosity which enabled the event to take place and proliferated WE's message of empowerment.

She went on to introduce each panel member highlighting the inspiration each provided. Anjali Pathak, a third generation female entrepreneur from the famous high quality authentic Indian "Patak" food family encouraged the audience to "discover" that a skill that one perhaps took for granted could actually be the key to your next step as Anjali's grandmother did when she came to the UK in the late 1950's. Sally Overhead, a mother of five children, all under seven years old, and an entrepreneur with two companies one of which is dedicated to helping mothers back into work. She explained that she had tried to get the right work/family balance and had managed to achieve success in both family and business life while at the same time approached the discussion of social entrepreneurship. She spoke of Kiran Sharma whose story started with posters on her walls of the greatest music legends and she now manages one of them, Prince. The final panellist was Rupinder Virdee, a working mother who found a complimentary niche to call her own and set up a PR and marketing agency.

Image(s) courtesy of CRR Photography

# Entrepreneurship Event

Sally Overhead urged those thinking of doing something to "just go for it" waiting for the right time or right thing might mean that you would always be waiting.

Anjali reassured those listening that a fear of failure was acceptable and it was okay to fail sometimes and that one should look at failure as a dress rehearsal for success.

Kiran urged people to do one thing everyday towards your goal and in a month that would become 30 things have been done and that would be progress towards success.

Rupinder advised the attendees to take an idea, plan it and then really go for it.

Women empowered had collaborated with TIE UK, a forum for entrepreneurs, as their mentoring partners and Deepali Nangia the mumpreneur of Empower who provided career and business support to working mums.

The evening ended with those who attended browsing through the stalls that were being championed by WE all of which were started up by women entrepreneurs.



Image(s) courtesy of CRR Photography

# Entrepreneurship Event

## Tips from WE Champions and Supporters

"When I look back to what has made me successful in outsourcing I would say I have been very driven, very hard working and really do not do failure... I have a very positive attitude and even when things do go wrong, I have learnt to move on quickly and just accept that it is not worth dwelling on things too deeply. I also know that to be the best in your role means having the best team around you – and I have always recruited people who I think have complementary skills to me."

**Ruby McGregor-Smith**



"Creating a formal sales process is the cornerstone of a successful business.

It has several elements to it:

1. Work out your ideal client first. that will give you your language, places they hang out, how to approach them.
2. Then work out their buying patterns: what will they buy, why, when.
3. Then set up a marketing process to sell to them which hits as many as 10,000 people for 100 sales.
4. Then work out how to sell to them more than once.
5. Also work out how to sell to them in higher and higher amounts.

This is known in Sales-speak as a sales funnel and is the cornerstone of a successful business."

**Geeta Sidhu-Robb**

"Perseverance – if at first you don't succeed, try and try again until you do!"

**Nina Amin**



"Stay focussed - Life seems to whizz by at a million miles per hour and it's all too easy to get distracted with other things when it's important you stay focussed on your goals. Staying calm allows you to think more clearly and with hard work and persistence you will be closer to achieving your dream."

**Anjali Pathak**

"Train the Brain for ultimate Success!

Willpower and self-discipline go hand in hand. Willpower is the ability to arrive at a decision and then constantly persevere to follow it through to a successful conclusion. It is an inner power which can overcome negative habits and addictions such as excessive eating, laziness and procrastination. Self-discipline, on the other hand, gives you the stamina to carry on persevering until you get where you want to be, despite any hardships or difficulties.

If you can master these two qualities, you will be able to make decisions and follow them. You will succeed in your goals, because you won't give up and will stay focused."

**Ritu Sethi**



"It is often said if women ruled the world, there would be fewer wars. There would be no child labour. Well if more women ran their own business this would be true too. After all the old saying goes that no two countries have warred against each other where they've both had a branch of McDonalds. And it is the entrepreneur who in the form of Cadbury and Rowntree built foundations to eradicate child labour in Britain. It is the entrepreneur who builds the company that pays tax, that employs you so you can pay tax and that tax runs the country. It is the entrepreneur who creates employment, not the employee. "

**Alpesh Patel**

# Women Get It Right Roadshow

On Thursday November 22nd in Haveli Restaurant in Slough, Women Empowered, in conjunction with Jeena International, and as part of a Sewa Day initiative, held a free "Women Get it Right" Road Show.

The drop in event attracted 120 diverse women. Here, those who needed could find legal advice, talk with counsellors, get career advice or hear about the local amenities available to them.

The event sought to raise awareness for issues that many who need assistance would normally feel uncomfortable asking for.

The busy open day had free initial advice on legal issues and solicitors available to offer guidance on family, criminal and immigration law in the UK and representatives from the UK Border Agency were present along with solicitors from law firm Cameron Clark.



Financial benefit advice was available from Destiny Support, a community based organisation in Slough. Slough Volunteer Centre were particularly targeting women who wanted to increase their skills to update their CVs or for those who have never worked.

Representatives from the Forced Marriage Unit and UKBA attended amongst others to raise awareness about ones rights in the UK and to offer advice in how to become involved in the democratic process along with what protection is available under UK and EU law to those affected by this issue.

The British Army offered advice on job opportunities within the Army.

The event, which included a free lunch, gave women a place to meet, talk and learn more about their rights in the UK as well as raise awareness on issues that still remain taboo in certain communities.

Jeena International is dedicated to working with communities to challenge social norms that discriminate against the most vulnerable in society and is hoping to launch a 24 hour helpline in the new year. Women Empowered presented Jeena International with a cheque for £1080 which it had raised during a fundraiser lunch earlier this month which was held at Indigo Restaurant in Gerrards Cross. The money will be doubled to £2160 through a local "Just Giving" initiative. <http://localgiving.com/charity/berkshirecf>

The Women Get it Right Road Show is hoped to be repeated in 2013 in Southall and Kenton. More information can be found at [www.womenempowered.co.uk](http://www.womenempowered.co.uk) or [www.jeenainternational.org](http://www.jeenainternational.org). The next free open day event, "The Health Road Show", will be held on 7th March at Haveli in Slough which will include information and advice on mental and sexual health.

By Appointment Only

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