

PRESS RELEASE

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WeAreTheCity unveil their 2019 Rising Star winners

WeAreTheCity and The Times and The Sunday Times are proud to announce the winners of their 2019 Rising Star Awards.

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

The awards were entered by over 1,250 individuals and were judged by a panel of 54 independent judges. Over 35,000 public votes of support were received for the 200 shortlisted nominees from 115 countries. The 2019 awards are headline sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times. 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, CMI, Deloitte, Edit Development, finnCap, Government Equalities Office (GEO), HSBC, Jobbio, Kaizo, Kier, Lloyds Banking Group, Lloyd's, Northern Trust, Oxford Said Business School, Reed Smith and Style Magazine.

The list of winners showcases remarkable women within the UK from across 20 categories representing different industries and professions. Those highlighted include Claudia Craig, Campaign Manager, Centenary Action Group, which is a coalition of human rights groups, led by Dr Helen Pankhurst CBE, an original descendant of suffragette, Emmeline Pankhurst; Rain Irshad, Autonomous Systems Lead, STFC RAL Space, who was integral to a project which saw an instrument land on Mars in 2018, as part of NASA's InSight mission; and Anna Blackwell and Kate Culverwell, Kayaking the Continent, who led the world's first tandem kayaking expedition from England to the Black Sea, in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Action.

The awards also include a Company of the Year prize, awarded to Aviva Investors, who are delivering impactful projects and programmes to develop their female leadership. The awards also recognises five Rising Star Champions, who are actively supporting the progression of women in the workplace. These include Carmel McKinney OBE, Non-

Executive Chairperson, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service; and Foluke Akinlose MBE, Founder of PRECIOUS, which is an organisation which promotes black women in business.

New for this year, WeAreTheCity announced their Editor's Choice winners, including Vivienne Artz, Chief Privacy Officer, Refinitiv and President of Women in Banking and Finance; Ann Miller-McCaffrey, Armed Forces Diversity Engagement Team, Royal Navy; and Christine Blacklaws, President of The Law Society of England and Wales. All winners have been recognised for their tireless efforts in the diversity space and as individuals who are driving change within their respective industries.

The winners were celebrated at a prestigious award's ceremony, alongside 450 guests at The Landmark Hotel, Marylebone, London. Guests were welcomed by Jane Hill from BBC News, and entertained throughout the night by 1920's girl band, Just the Tonic, Roger Samuels, 2019 The Voice contestant and soul sensation, Lemar, multi Brit and MOBO award winner and Magic Soul FM DJ.

Lorraine Candy, Luxury Content Director of The Sunday Times, said, "The Times and The Sunday Times are thrilled to once again support this year's Rising Star Awards. With gender politics and female empowerment dominating our headlines, supporting women in the workplace remains important to our readers, as well as an important strand of the journalism we create.

We believe that by raising up those at lower levels, we are creating tomorrow's leaders and these awards' help shine a spotlight on the tremendous work being achieved in the female pipeline."

Vanessa Vallely OBE, Managing Director, WeAreTheCity, said, "I am so proud that for the fifth year running WeAreTheCity has been able to shine a light on the achievements of so many remarkable women across the UK. Our 2019 winners join a phenomenal alumni of 450 previous winners who continue to soar, both professionally and personally. It has been a truly amazing evening and I am ecstatic to welcome our 2019 winners to the WeAreTheCity family and to watch them progress in to the senior positions they so rightly deserve."

-ENDS -

EDITOR'S NOTES

[WeAreTheCity.com](https://www.wearethecity.com) is a free, centralised hub for women who want to progress in their careers, enhance their skills and build their external networks.

Through the website, we provide:

- Career related content to inspire and motivate our members (+10,000 articles)
- Connections to 350 female networks who support women in their personal/professional progression
- A calendar of female-orientated events where our members can enhance their networks and grow their skills

- The latest knowledge and information on women in the workplace e.g. research reports, business schools, female development programs & returnships
- WeAreTechWomen, a dedicated section for female technologists featuring industry events, news, networks, conferences and awards
- Features on key charities, social enterprises & schools where our members can give back to their local communities
- Visibility of jobs via WeAreTheCity Jobs from firms seeking to improve their gender balance
- The opportunity to enter our annual awards, Rising Star Awards and TechWomen100
- The opportunity to attend our conferences, WeAreFutureLeaders and WeAreTechWomen

WeAreTheCity in numbers:

- Founded in 2008
- 120,000 members (15k Women in Technology)
- 10,000 career related articles
- Promotion of over 350 women's networks
- Access to 50,000 women through our social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn)
- 85+ events run/co-partnered

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

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APPENDIX

All Other Industries

- Anna Blackwell and Kate Culverwell- Kayaking the Continent
- Claudia Craig - Centenary Action Group
- Hannah Elderfield - Canvas8
- Hope Virgo - Mental Health Campaigner, Public Speaker & Author of Stand Tall Little Girl
- Louise Maynard-Atem - Experian

Banking & Capital Markets

- Christine Ondimu - HSBC
- Clodagh McCullagh - Barclays
- Ericka FitzGerald - MUFG

- Jemma Waters - Lloyds Banking Group
- Preeti Chaudhary - AIB UK

Charity

- Agnieszka Baliszewska - Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Herchran Boal - RSPCA
- Laura Perkins - Young Women's Trust
- Natalie Moore - Apps for Good
- Sonia Meggie - Inspirational YOU

Creative Industries

- Anila Chowdhry - Freelance at Channel 5's The Vine Show and The Telegraph
- Georgina Bobb - Connect2TV Coaching
- Gina Thompson - Warner Bros TVP
- Isabella Silvers - Hearst UK
- Juliette Nicholls - Pineapple Audio Production

Defence

- Emma Sagar - British Army
- Faith Jayne - Raytheon Systems Limited
- Georgina Brown - Ministry of Defence
- Hazelle Garton - Royal Navy
- Victoria Cope - BAE Systems

Digital

- Anahita Mahmoudi - Capgemini
- Anna Somaiya - KPMG
- Jem Collins - Journo Resources
- Laura Chung - PayPal
- Tara Annison - Lendingblock

Diversity

- Elizabeth Seward - Airbus
- Salma Zulfiqar - SBZ Creative Media
- Sarah Garnett - Telefonica UK Ltd
- Sharniya Ferdinand - NatWest
- Sheree Atcheson - Deloitte

EA & PA

- Hanna Stacey - Rackspace

- Helen Rees - Marwell Wildlife
- Melissa Francis - Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Nikki Holland - PwC
- Paula Moio - Time Family Office

Education & Academia

- Aimee Atkinson - UWE Bristol
- April-Louise Pennant - University of Birmingham
- Caroline Thraves - The University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- Joanna Donegan-Edwards - Dartford Science and Technology College
- Kerry Pace - Diverse Learners Ltd

Entrepreneurs & Startups

- Angelica Malin - About Time Magazine
- Caroline Pegden - TempaGoGo
- Cat Trebilco - Reach the Peak
- Isobel McFarland - Care
- Naomi Jane - A Life Less Ordinary Wanted

HR & Recruitment

- Edleen John - KPMG
- Emily Lewis - Finlay James
- Mikahla Chapman - Accenture
- Millie Smyth - Accenture
- Morgana Aiyer - Accenture

Insurance

- Emilia Gibson - Marsh
- Emma Adie - Talbot Underwriting Ltd
- Emma Thomson - British Friendly
- Jasmine Shell - r10 Consulting
- Natalia Zurowski - Synechron

Investment Management

- Alexandra Jackson - Rathbones
- Jenny Qian Qi Quan - Smith & Williamson
- Rachel Green - Aviva Investors
- Rebecca O'Dwyer - M&G Investments
- Shalah Akhtar - PwC

Law (The Lynne Freeman Award)

- Asma Al Abbarova - Law Business Research
- Cherry Swift - DLA Piper UK LLP
- Dana Abdulkarim - Linklaters LLP
- Katherine Ramo - CMS
- Natalie Carter - Greenberg Traurig LLP

PR & Communications

- Emma Dean - Hanover Communications
- Emma Molloy - Moonpig
- Esther Harris - Bookcollective
- Leigh Rimmer - LendInvest
- Serena Chana - 23 Code Street

Professional Services

- Kenda Macdonald - Automation Ninjas
- Mary Agbesanwa - PwC
- Meera Kotak - innogy Consulting
- Megan Cross - Accenture
- Monique Malcolm-Hay - PwC

Property, Construction & FM

- Candy Hollingum - CBRE
- Frankie Isherwood - CBRE
- Helen Heward - Planning House
- Michelle Hicks - Merlin Entertainments
- Ninarita Williams - Transport for London

Public Sector

- Charlene Chigumira - Bedford, Luton & Milton Keynes Sustainability & Transformation Partnership
- Judith Hardisty - Health and Safety Executive
- Nadine Barrett - Slough Borough Council
- Sophie Daud - Department for Work and Pensions
- Vimla Appadoo - FutureGov

Science & Engineering

- Lorna Bennet - Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
- Mariapia Angelino - WSP
- Rain Irshad - STFC RAL Space
- Rand Alkhatib - Arcadis
- Rosario Barcena - Systra

Technology

- Claire Donoghue - 3M
- Ekaterini Tasiopoulou - IBM
- Love Oyeniran - LRO Consults
- Martha Imprialou - QuantumBlack
- Rebeka Marton - Deloitte

Champions

- Carmel McKinney OBE – Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Deborah Gilshan – The 100% Club
- Foluke Akinlose MBE - PRECIOUS
- Sarah Atkinson - techUK
- Sarah-Jane Butler – Parental Choice

Company

- Aviva Investors

Editor's Choice

- Ann Miller-McCaffrey - Royal Navy
- Christina Blacklaws - The Law Society of England and Wales
- Holly Rafique - #techmums
- Laura and Rachel Beattie – Careaux
- Vivienne Artz - Refinitiv