

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WeAreTheCity Rising Star Awards 2020**

#### **WeAreTheCity shines the spotlight on 200 remarkable women as part of their Rising Star Awards shortlist**

WeAreTheCity are proud to announce the shortlist for their 2020 Rising Star Awards.

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

Since 2015, WeAreTheCity's Rising Star Awards have highlighted the achievements of over 550 future leaders and role models across a variety of different industries and professions.

This year's 200 strong shortlist showcases remarkable women within the UK, from across 20 categories representing different industries/professions. Examples of the amazing women shortlisted this year are; Joanna Monck, a Stonewall Schools Role Model and National Diversity Mentor, who works voluntarily as a hate crime ambassador for Sussex Police; Fareeha Usman, Founder of Being Woman, a non-profit organisation working to educate and empower women with the skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination in the society; and Dr Larisa Corda, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, and is ITV This Morning's and Channel Mum's Fertility Expert.

New for this year, we are also celebrating Men for Gender Balance, which showcases senior men who are championing women and gender balance either inside or outside their organisation. This year's shortlisted nominees include; Philip Baldwin, a human rights activist and writer, who focuses on equalities issues, homelessness, asylum and faith inclusion; and Ranajoy Basu, a partner at Reed Smith and Chair of the Womanity Foundation, who also launched the firm's Social Impact Finance Group.

The awards also continue to celebrate Rising Star Champions, recognising the efforts of senior leaders who are actively supporting the female pipeline. Included in this year's shortlist are Ana Perez, Senior Director at Oracle UK & Ireland, who leads Oracle's Women's Network (OWL) and is also a trustee and company secretary for women's charity, Smart Works; and Anya Navidski, Founding Partner at Voulez Capital – Europe's First VC fund for female founders.

The Rising Star Awards also include a Company of the Year award, which recognises the achievements of a company who can demonstrate that they are actively supporting and developing their female talent pipeline through initiatives, training, development programmes and/or internal employee relations groups. Shortlisted companies this year are Goldman Sachs, HSBC and M&G.

The public are encouraged to cast their votes of support for our shortlisted nominees via [risingstars.wearethecity.com](https://risingstars.wearethecity.com). Please note there is no public vote for the Champion, Company of the Year and Men for Gender Balance categories.

The 2020 awards are headline sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada. 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, Citi, CMI, Elysian Search Consulting, Goldman Sachs, GSK, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, Lloyd's, Mott MacDonald, Northern Trust, Oliver Wyman, Oxford Said Business School, Reed Smith and Sage.

**Dave Thomas, CEO, RBC Europe** said, "Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) are delighted to be the headline sponsor of the Rising Stars Awards and, on behalf of everyone at RBC, I would like to congratulate all 1,130 nominees. These awards are critical to celebrate and showcase incredible talent across multiple industries in the UK. At RBC, we support diversity and inclusion at all levels and it's one of the ways we bring our purpose of helping clients thrive and communities prosper to life."

**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."

These 200 women will now face the final judging period and the public vote. Our 2020 shortlist, judges, sponsors and supporters will be invited to a prestigious ceremony.

The public are encouraged to cast their votes of support for our shortlisted nominees via [risingstars.wearethecity.com](https://risingstars.wearethecity.com)

**-ENDS-**

**Editor's notes:**

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

[WeAreTheCity.com](#) is a female development organisation that helps companies to attract, return and develop their female talent pool. WeAreTheCity provides resources for women looking to develop themselves personally and professionally. Through the website we provide gender-related news, a networks directory, calendar of events and conferences, returnships, business schools, inspirational women profiles, HeForShe interviews, giving back and jobs.

**WeAreTheCity's aim is:**

- To encourage women to progress in their careers through proactive activities such as networking, events, further education and training
- To help corporate organisations to attract, retain and develop their female employees
- To raise awareness of the various organisations including not-for-profit organisations who support the progression of women
- To connect and encourage women to give back and share their time/skills with charities, social enterprises, school, not-for-profit organisations and to become role models for the next generation of working women.

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

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**For information about working with us, please visit** [workwithus.wearethecity.com](http://workwithus.wearethecity.com)

**APPENDIX**

**Rising Star Award's 2020 Shortlist**

**All Other Industries**

- Ally Faughnan – The Gallyry
- Carina White – Tongue Tied Media
- Emily Johnson - LVK
- Emma Fay – GSK
- Erica Mills – British Army
- Lisa Marr – Barclays
- Louise Littlefair - GSK

- Millie Gooch – Sober Girl Society
- Sandra Hadaie – Kadmos Consultants
- Virginia Stuart-Taylor – UK Civil Service

### **Banking & Capital Markets**

- Aisha Lewis – Nationwide Building Society
- Annabelle Juffs - MUFG
- Camilla Allnatt – MUFG
- Ericka FitzGerald - MUFG
- Fariha Alauddin - Barclays
- Gabi Burnside – Ulster Bank
- Kavita Singh - Refinitiv
- Mirabell Mayack – African Investment Day
- Natalie Ojevah – Barclays
- Nikki Jamieson – NatWest Group

### **Charity & Not-For-Profit**

- Adeola Gbakinro – Uplift TNG
- Fareeha Usman – Being Woman
- Lucienne Edge – The Royal British Legion
- Marjolein Schaap – Cancer Research UK
- Melanie Manning – FREEDOM 2
- Monica Stancu – Royal Academy of Engineering
- Rabab Malik – Unite & Uplift
- Sasha Buonasorte – Shelter
- Sharan Jaswal – Sharan Jaswal
- Sharon Benning-Prince – Sophia Consulting Limited

### **Defence**

- Anuradha Damale – UKSEDS/Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security in the UK/VERTIC/British Pugwash
- Bryony Stevens – British Army
- Fatima Zaman – Kofi Annan Foundation
- Georgina Smith – Royal Air Force
- Krystina Pearson-Rampeearie – BAE Systems
- Pamela McNeill – HM Forces
- Rachyel Ainsworth – HM Forces
- Rebecca Sharp – BAE Systems
- Sam Wraith – 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade
- Vinita Meissner – IMI Truflo Marine

### **Digital**

- Anima Verma - Consultant
- Angelica Bagot – Bauer Media – Magic Radio/The Fempire Collective
- Charlotte Wibberley – VIP VA
- Cheryl Laidlaw – Website in a Day
- Kassy Cho - Freelance
- Kate Samuelson – CHEAPSKATE London
- Patricia Keating – Tech Manchester
- Qi Pan - GSK
- Radhika Patel – Capco
- Zainab Kwaw-Swanzy - Barclays

## **Diversity**

- Abbianca Makoni – Evening Standard
- Catherine Cobb – Amey
- Charlotte Hugh – Dark Horses/ Badass.gal
- Charlotte Schreurs – OMD Create
- Emma Horsfall – Barclays
- Giulia Olayemi – Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry
- Hannah McNamara – Citi
- Jennifer Found - GSK
- Joanne Monck – Evergreen
- Maryam Amussah - Shell

## **EA & PA**

- April Pardoe – Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
- Catherine Diment – Alcumus
- Claudine Martin – British Army
- Esther Dawson – Ridgeview Wine Estate
- Hayley Cole - BlackRock
- Julie Burns – Glasgow Caledonian University
- Kelly McAulay – William Grant & Sons Limited
- Laura Blower-Harris – Accenture
- Michaela Collins – Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation
- Michelle Gibson – Exec Angels

## **Education & Academia**

- Alisha Airey – University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)
- Denise Chippindale – General Assembly
- Dharini Patel – Department for Education
- Eno Maycock – Coventry University
- Gergana Argirova – London Music Box
- Kiran Satti – Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust – Holyhead Primary Academy
- Rachael Ainsworth – University of Manchester

- Rachel Newman – Open Awards
- Sarah Mullin – Priory School
- Sarah Oter – Imperial College Business School

### **Energy & Utilities**

- Alero Abe – Shell
- Anna Armani – Genel Energy
- Carolina Escudero – Vattenfall
- Hasmeen Deol – Capital Dynamics
- Laure Vernier – Bloomberg
- Linda Blank – SUITCASE Group
- Lucy Kennedy – Spottitt Ltd.
- Nina McNamara – Kaluza (Part of OVO Group)
- Susan Robson – National Grid
- Shruti Gupta - BP

### **Entrepreneurs & Startups**

- Amandine Flachs - Swoop
- Amber Cowburn – Working Well (SW) Ltd.
- Bryony Farmer – Precious Stars
- Caroline Andrew – Caroline Andrew London
- Gemma Wall – The Contemporary PA
- Gill Cooke - STEMConnex
- Jacynth Bassett – the-Bias-Cut.com
- Sophie Ward - Sophantastic
- Taslima Khan – Taslima K
- Tracey Blake – Student Nannies

### **Healthcare**

- Ayomide Ayorinde – Imperial College London
- Divine Adegbe – NHS
- Hannah Lithgow - GSK
- Khadija Owusu – St George’s, University of London
- Larisa Corda – NHS
- Mansata Kurang – VR Revival/Royal Holloway University of London
- Olamide Dada – Melanin Medics
- Priya Yoganathan – Viramal Pharmaceuticals
- Shannon Johnson – Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- Victoria Oladosu – Barchester Healthcare

### **HR & Recruitment**

- Anisa Aksar – 11:FS
- Catherine Coltart – Northern Trust
- Charlotte Allen – Alexander Mann Solutions
- Charlotte Brierley – Fire Tech
- Farrah Ekeroth - EY
- Gurdeep Sira – London Fire Brigade
- Laura Brunton - Amey
- Leah Bracha - RBS
- Louise Deverell-Smith – The Daisy Chain
- Maya Welford – Barclays

### **Insurance**

- Angie Wang – PwC
- Ayleen Frete - Allianz
- Gabrielle Lang – Marsh
- Joanne Clark – Marsh
- Lara Teesdale – Markel International
- Laureen Ramsay – Marsh
- Liah Ali – Markel International
- Louise van der Valk – Louise van der Valk
- Luise Kindsvater – Euler Hermes
- Pelumi Ojo - Aon

### **Investment Management**

- Alexandra Jordan – Octopus Investments
- Chloe Selvey - HSBC
- Georgie Hazell – Augmentum Fintech
- Jessica Jackson – GC Angels
- Justine Colley – Sanlam Wealth
- Marina Gordon – J.P. Morgan
- Paris Jordan – Sanlam Investments
- Salena Lee – Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets
- Shannon Love - TwentyFour Asset Management
- Tahia Tahmin – Sanlam Investments

### **Law (The Lynne Freeman Award)**

- Aïssata N’Diaye – Morgan Stanley
- Anne Rose – Mishcon de Reya
- Becca Naylor – Reed Smith
- Charlotte Lakin - Global
- Chloe Weir – Barclays
- Clare Barnard – Dechert LLP
- Eman Hassan – Moore Blatch LLP

- Katie Cotton – Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (UK) LLP
- Nina Pindham – No5 Chambers
- Thea Osmund-Smith – No5 Chambers

### **Logistics & Transport**

- Christina Chinnian – Highways England
- Evlynne Smith – IBM
- Harriet Burrow – Arup
- Ingrid Norman – Network Rail
- Patrice Gordon-Mantey – Virgin Atlantic
- Saskia Demeyere – Transport for London
- Shona Clive - Babcock
- Susan Keir – British Army
- Vicky Ager - Amey
- Vivien Yip – Transport for London

### **Professional Services**

- Emma Bennett – PwC
- Georgia Leadbetter - IBM
- Harwinder Rana - Aon
- Hitasha Chandnani - IBM
- Jessica Garbett - PwC
- Karina Klimaszewski – Aon
- Kiren Bhardwa – Capgemini
- Kirsten Alexander-McGarry - EY
- Kirsty McKnight – Oliver Wyman
- Lara Bernard - Accenture

### **Property, Construction & FM**

- Amie McCabe – AHR Architects
- Elisabeth Pywell – CBRE
- Frankie Byron – Lambert Smith Hampton
- Harriet Glen – Crossrail
- Katie Nelson – Cushman & Wakefield
- Lucy Maddin-Uden – Keltbray Group
- Sarah Beth Riley – Lewisham Homes
- Sarah Hayford – The Land Collective /Wasabi Sushi & Bento
- Simona Stanynaite – Transport for London
- Winnie Okonkwo – MediaCom

### **Science & Engineering**



- Alexandra Mather - WSP
- Amber O'Connor – Siemens Aeroderivative Gas Turbines
- Charchita Misra - EY
- Chrisma Jain – Transport for London
- Hannah Ratcliffe - Jacobs
- Katie Burnell – Amey
- Lisa-Jayne Cook – J&E Hall
- Michelle Green – FJD Consulting Ltd.
- Rebecca Cocklin – BP
- Sarah Pickett - Inmarsat

### **Technology**

- Anastasiya Kizima - Barclays
- Arteesha Bosamia – Dentsu Aegis Network
- Caryn Tan - Accenture
- Daphne Coates – IBM
- Heather Delaney – Gallium Ventures
- Ivana Skerlikova – Atos
- Katie Shannon – Accenture
- Nerissa Prawiro – Goldman Sachs
- Nikita Dattani - Bloomberg
- Rahma Javed - Deliveroo

### **Champions**

- Alexandra Knight - Amey
- Ana Perez – Oracle
- Anya Navidski – Voulez Capital
- Carol Ann Whitehead – The Zebra Partnership
- Claire Curran – Linaker
- Jennie Koo – Capital One
- Judy Kawaguchi - Refinitiv
- Lindsay Law – NatWest
- Rachel Murphy - Difrent
- Sarah Owen-Vandersluis – KPMG

### **Men for Gender Balance**

- Ashkan Pitchforth – South Cliff Dental Group
- Christian Edelmann – Oliver Wyman
- Daniel Percy-Hughes - Synechron
- Danny Pallett – Dark Horses/ Badass.gal
- Gareth Morris – HSBC
- Garry Samson – Nationwide Building Society
- Philip Baldwin – Gay Times Columnist/ Trustee Ozanne Foundation

- Ranajoy Basu – Reed Smith
- Steve Collinson – Zurich Insurance
- Wil Benton – ATI Boeing Accelerator

### **Company**

- HSBC
- Goldman Sachs
- M&G plc