

# *Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Association*

Celebrating the achievement of women and girls of ethnic  
minority origin living in Wales



## *SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER*

### *Welcome from Professor Meena Upadhyaya Founder and Chairperson of the Award*

Dear Lords, Baronesses and friends,

Welcome to our 4th award ceremony. We are here to celebrate the amazing achievements of Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BME) women and girls living in Wales by recognizing their contributions to Welsh life. These awards identify role models for different communities and facilitates community cohesion and integration. It is marvelous to see a richness of colours in this room reflecting the truly vibrant cultural diversity which

makes Wales a very special place. Since our first awards ceremony in 2011, we have evolved and expanded as an organisation. We started as the Welsh Asian Women Achievement award (WAWAA) which has now expanded to become EMWWAA. This new platform is a fusion of all faiths and cultures and offers all BME women and girls an effective voice. It also gives us an opportunity to thank those unsung BME heroes right across Wales who have gone that extra mile.



This year, once again we have a truly inspirational and diverse group of finalists (representing over 20 different countries), Congratulations and thanks to you all. You all are not only an asset to Wales but also inspirational role models.

The Judges were very moved and impressed as they heard your many uplifting stories and as usual had the challenging task of selecting the winners. So I want to emphasize again that all the finalists are truly exceptional women and girls.

We are still receiving the majority of our nominations from South Wales, and in view of this, we are adopting a new strategy to make the awards better known in other parts of the country. Following the interviews this year, an EMWWAA ambassador was appointed by the judges. The role of this person will be to raise the profile of EMWWAA throughout Wales for the next 2 years and she will be available to the

media for publicity. Her other key role is to identify and win new sponsors.

EMWWAA has been active in the community throughout the year. Over the last 12 months our activities have included raising funds for Lord Mayor's charity and the organization of confidence building and interview skills workshop for BME women. Sadly we lost our beloved friend Angela Kwok to cancer about six months ago. She was the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013 for her outstanding contributions to the Chinese Community. She was also very supportive to EMWWAA. We will be paying a brief tribute to her later this evening. We also fondly remember Dr Shoba Cherian, consultant Pediatrician who was a finalist for the Medicine Category in 2015, sadly she suddenly died of respiratory problems.

We are privileged to have Lord Parekh with us again tonight. He was our main distinguished guest at the first award ceremony in 2011 and it is great to welcome him back this evening.

I am sincerely grateful to all our sponsors and supporters. Cardiff University Vice-Chancellor's office is our main sponsor for this year, the others include BAWSO, Royal Navy, Race Equality First, Chwarae Teg, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Cardiff Sixth Form College. I also wish to thank the compere for this evening, Behnaz Akhgar from BBC Wales as well as members of our selection and judging panels. You will get to see most of the judges at the award presentation ceremony. I am as ever grateful to the EMWWAA Management Committee, our many volunteers and of course, a very big thank you to all the nominators and the applicants for the EMWWAA awards. My sincere thanks to everyone who is here to join our celebrations. Please enjoy the rest of the evening.

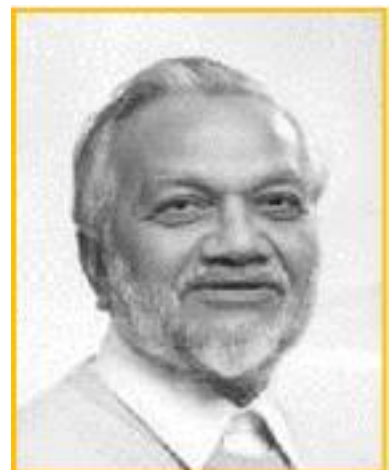
## *Chief Guest*

### *Lord Parekh*

Educated at the Universities of Bombay and London, Lord Bhikhu Parekh is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and of the Academy of the Learned Societies for Social Sciences. He was vice-chairman of the Gandhi Foundation, a trustee of the Anne Frank Educational Trust, and a member of the National Commission on Equal Opportunities.

Lord Parekh is an emeritus professor of political philosophy at the University of Hull and Westminster.

He was until recently Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics, and has been a visiting professor at the universities of McGill, Harvard, Paris and Barcelona. Lord Parekh has received many honours in India & Britain. He received the BBC's Special Lifetime Achievement Award for Asians, and the Sir Isaiah Berlin



Prize for Lifetime Contributions to Political Philosophy. He has also received Pravasi Bhratiya Saman and Padma Bhusan from the President of India. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and was until recently President of the Academy of Social Sciences.

He is the author of several widely acclaimed books in political philosophy including “Rethinking Multiculturalism”, published by Harvard University Press, and “A New Politics of Identity”, published by McMillan, London. A leading interpreter of the history of political theory, he has written books on Bentham, Marx and Gandhi. His most recent writings have been on the dilemmas of policy in multi-ethnic Britain and the political theories and principles that should guide thinking on these issues.

The title of his talk today is; “Under representation of BME women in senior positions: strategies for dismantling glass ceiling barriers”.

## *Presenter*

### *Behnaz Akhgar*

Behnaz Akhgar has become a household name since 2008 when she started presenting the weather for BBC Wales. Behnaz can be seen or heard daily talking about the ever changing weather we have here in Wales.

Behnaz Akhgar was born in Shiraz, Iran, and has good command of Farsi. She moved to Swansea when she was 10 years old, and has lived in Wales ever since. She went to the University of Glamorgan where she gained a BA in communication studies. She completed her postgraduate diploma in broadcast journalism at Cardiff University.

Behnaz Akhgar initially joined the BBC in 2001 working behind the scenes in news and then went on to become a picture editor and a video journalist, where she produced various stories on Wales Today.

Behnaz always wanted to become a weather forecaster and went on the mission of learning and applying for weather presenting jobs. In 2008, on her third attempt, Behnaz successfully passed the weather knowledge and screen test.

Behnaz went on to be trained by the Met Office at the BBC Weather Centre in London. After extensive training she started broadcasting in October 2008. She now broadcasts across TV, radio and online in Wales.

When she is not busy forecasting Behnaz enjoys travelling, eating out, going to concerts and spending time with family and friends.



## *Awards Ceremony Programme*

### *EMWWAA Award Presenters*

### *Chef Steve Gomes's Menu for the EMWWAA Dinner*

#### *Starters*

*Punjabi samosa with Chole Hara Bhara Kabab Jerk  
Chicken Tikka Main Course*

*Palak Paneer*

*Aloo Baigan Dakshini*

*Chilli Chicken Chinese style*

*Vegetable Makhni*

*Tarka Dal*

*Peas Pulao Rice*

*Chapati*

*Pickle, Chutney, Raita, Salad*

*Dessert*

*Pistachio Mousse*

*Tea/Coffee*

*\*All meat dishes are Halal*

The food has been prepared by Chef Steve Gomes from Moksh who is the fourth generation in his family to be a chef. After training within a variety of five star hotels across Asia, he now utilizes his heritage, experience and gastronomic travels to create his unique modern Indian fusion cuisine, with elements of molecular cooking. Steven Gomes has won multiple awards within the UK and outside. He is also committed to nurturing young talent, and as a former lecturer at the Asian Oriental School of



catering in Hackney, has lectured in modern Indian cuisine.

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan, former First Minister, Wales will be presenting certificates to all the finalists at the start of the ceremony. The presenters for each of the separate EMWWAA awards are:

*Science, Technology and Medicine :*

Professor Julian Sampson, Sue Essex

*Management and Leadership:*

Commodore Jamie Miller, Mutale Merrill

*Arts, Culture and Sports :*

Baroness Anita Gale, Kully Thiarai, Lord Lt Morfudd Meredith, Cynthia Ogbonna

*Social and Humanitarian:*

Lord Mayor Cllr Monica Walsh, Aliya Mohammad

*Business :*

Professor Terry Threadgold, Dr Gareth Collier

*Self-Development :*

Dr Joan Williams, Steven Daughty MP, Baroness Ilora Finlay, Mohammad Asghar AM

*Young Achiever:*

Prof Catherine Farrell, Sheila Hendrickson-Brown

*Violence Against Women Agenda:*

Professor Chris Weedon, Stella Diamantidi, Baroness Randersen, Krishna Chauhan, Professor Sue Denman, Cerys Furlong

*Tribute to late Angela Kwok:*

Julie Morgan AM, Vaughan Gething AM

*Lifetime Achievement:*

Julie Morgan AM, Jane Hutt AM, Professor Karen Holford, Vaughan Gething AM



## *EMWAA Ambassador Award:*

Lord Parekh

## *The WAWAA Judging Panel*

### *Science, Technology, Medicine and Management & Leadership*

#### *Professor Julian Sampson*

Professor Sampson is an academic clinical geneticist working at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University, where he is Director of the Division of Cancer and Genetics. He is also a clinical consultant with the NHS All Wales Medical Genetics Service and undertakes clinics in Cardiff and west Wales for families with rare inherited conditions. He is Director of the Wales Gene Park that provides infrastructure for genomic research, education and engagement in Wales and also Chair of the Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee that provides advice on health science to the Welsh Government. His research interests focus on inherited tumour syndromes and tuberous sclerosis and in using genetic approaches to improve diagnosis and treatment and to prevent the complications of these conditions.



#### *Professor Sheila Hunt*

Until the end of 2014 Sheila was Dean and Head of the School of Health Care Sciences at Cardiff University. In 2015 she started a new career and established Sheila Hunt Associates, and she is now a management consultant specialising in the Higher Education and Health sectors. Sheila's expertise is in Executive Coaching and Mentoring. An experienced strategic leader, Sheila has held senior leadership positions in Universities in England, Scotland and Wales and within the NHS. In her academic career, Sheila's research focussed on poverty, domestic abuse and multiple deprivation.



#### *Sue Essex*

Sue Essex served as a Member of the National Assembly for Wales for Cardiff North from 1999 to 2007. From 1999 to 2003 she was Minister for Environment, Planning & Transport, with responsibility for the introduction of the Wales Spatial Plan; and from 2003 to 2007 Minister for



Finance, Local Government & Public Services. From 1983 until 1999 Sue was a councillor with Cardiff City Council, during which time she held the posts of Planning Committee; Deputy Leader; and Leader of the Council (the first female Leader of Cardiff C.C.) . Sue is a chartered town planner and has held a wide variety of posts in local government since 1962 with London County Council, the London Borough of Waltham Forest, Glamorgan / Mid Glamorgan County Councils and the Standing Conference on Regional Planning in South Wales. She has also taught at Llandaff Technical College (now Cardiff Met University) and the university of Cardiff (City & Regional Planning). Since 2007 she has operated as a self-employed consultant, most notably with the “Review of Affordable Housing in Wales”. Her most recent public appointment has been that as a member of the Silk Commission on Devolution in Wales.

### *Arts ,Culture and Sports, Social & Humanitarian*

#### *Mrs Julie Morgan AM*

Julie Morgan, Assembly Member for Cardiff North, has represented the area for nearly 20 years both as an MP and an AM. After losing her Parliamentary seat in 2010, Julie became the Assembly Member for Cardiff North in 2011, and was successfully re-elected in 2016. Julie has always been a champion of equality and human rights. At the Assembly Julie has chaired Cross Party Groups on Cancer, Gypsies and Travellers, Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood, and Children.

Julie was a founder member of the Welsh Refugee Council and is also a trustee of Life for African Mothers and Vice President of the George Thomas Hospice.



#### *Professor Chris Weedon*

Chris Weedon is Professor Emerita and Honorary Director of the Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory at Cardiff University. She has published widely on feminist theory, cultural politics, identity, race and ethnicity and women's writing. She was closely involved with the multi-ethnic, community-based charity, Butetown History & Arts Centre from 1990- 2016, working on community projects linked to arts, history, heritage and education.



#### *Kully Thiarai*

Kully Thiarai is an experienced Theatre Director and is currently Artistic and Chief Executive of National Theatre Wales.

Kully was, until May 2016, founding Director of Cast in



Doncaster: a £22 million performance venue that she opened as the cultural living room for the town; a place for performance, participation and provocation.

She has been involved in multiple performing arts and has led a number of organisations and companies. Her extensive experience includes commissioning, producing and directing work nationally and internationally, developing and nurturing talent and creating opportunities for those who may have little or no access to the arts. Kully is a Clore Theatre Fellow; Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Trustee of the Manchester International Festival.

## *Business and Self Development*

### *Professor Terry Threadgold*

Terry Threadgold was Professor of Communication and Cultural studies and was formerly head of the Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies. She was Pro Vice-Chancellor for Staff and Diversity (2007- 2012). She led the Cardiff Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel (CEDAP) for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 and was a member of the UK national Equality and Diversity Panel (EDAP) for the REF 2014. She has extensive academic and administrative experience in HE in Australia, the USA and the UK. She has been working with Performance for All (PFA) since late 2014, facilitating workshops and acting as a consultant on equality, workload, performances and cultural change in organisations.



### *Mutale Merrill OBE*

Mutale Merrill has spent many years occupying a number of important roles within the public and voluntary sectors in Wales. She is the founding Chief Executive of Bawso, a leading third sector provider for black minority ethnic women and children facing domestic and all other forms of abuse and violence. She was the first Chair of the Care Council for Wales, the first Vice Chair of Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, a member of the first Welsh Assembly Government Commission to review the voluntary sector, a member of a number of Welsh Government Task and Finish Groups, and a member of the Welsh Government Homelessness Commission. She is a Board member of ABESU, and a Chair of the Sub Sahara Advisory Panel, which works with diaspora communities in Wales. In 1997 Mutale was Welsh Woman of the Year for work in the community, and in 2006 received the Welsh Woman of the Year Val Feld Award for the individual who has made a difference to Welsh life. Mutale received a Leading Wales Award, and the





Craig Thomas Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2008, she received an OBE for her work in social care and the voluntary sector.

### *Young Achievers And Violence Against Women*

#### *Dr E. Joan Williams*

Consultant in Chemical Pathology and Metabolic Medicine, also held the posts of Postgraduate Organiser, Clinical Director of Pathology, Assessor on various appointments Committees, Inspector for Clinical Pathology Accreditation and completed time at Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust as Deputy Medical Director. After retiring for 2 years, returned to work for 12 months at Cardiff & Vale UHB employed as Medical Advisor for the roll out of the All Wales Patient Pathway for the diagnosis of Familial Hypercholesterolemia and family genetic cascade testing. Member of Soroptimists International, an advocate of Anti-Human Trafficking Activities raising awareness of this heinous crime and supporting those who support the victims.



#### *Professor Sue Denman*

Following nine years at Nottingham University's Medical School where she lectured in Public Health, Sue came to Wales in 2001 to set up the Research Monitoring and Evaluation Unit for the Wales European Funding Office. She remained at the Welsh Government to manage the Wales Office of Research and Development in health and social care, taking over as Director in 2007. She then joined the staff at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University where she set up the South East Wales Academic Health Science Partnership. Since retirement Sue has kept in close contact with the University and has undertaken some consultancy work. She is also engaged in a number of projects on a voluntary basis, one of which is the creation of a social enterprise in her own community, Solva.



#### *Professor Catherine Farrell*

Catherine Farrell is a Professor of Public Management at the University of South Wales. Her research interests are in the areas of governance and the changing roles of professionals in public services. She has published widely on school



governance and the role of public boards in public service improvement. She is currently researching different models of public board governance including the stakeholder and skills based approaches in a range of different services including the UK fire and rescue service.

For the past 35 years, Alison Jackson has been involved in social work, both in practice and in teaching. She was a Family Court Advisor with CAFCASS CYMRU within the Welsh Government. Her work focused on a wide variety of people from different social, ethnic, cultural and religious communities in south-east Wales. Over the same period, Alison was heavily involved in voluntary initiatives within the community, mainly in the areas of peace, the environment and social justice. One of her favourite leisure activities is Scottish Country Dancing, which she also teaches.

### *Alison Jackson*

For the past 35 years, Alison Jackson has been involved in social work, both in practice and in teaching. She was a Family Court Advisor with CAFCASS CYMRU within the Welsh Government. Her work focused on a wide variety of people from different social, ethnic, cultural and religious communities in south-east Wales. Over the same period, Alison was heavily involved in voluntary initiatives within the community, mainly in the areas of peace, the environment and social justice. One of her favourite leisure activities is Scottish Country Dancing, which she also teaches.



### *The EMWWAA Candidates*

#### *Science ,Technology and Medicine*

#### *Professor Kamila Hawthorne MBE*

Kamila Hawthorne is Vice Chair (Professional Development) at the Royal College of General Practitioners, and Associate Dean for Medicine at the University of Surrey. She is working with the University to develop a bid for a new, community facing Medical School. She is also an honorary professor in Cardiff University. She has research interests in diabetes, health education and health inequalities, particularly for Black and Minority Ethnic communities. With wide experience of running community projects in diabetes and heart disease, she has been



named ‘GP of the Year’ twice for her work with BME communities and patients. Kamila was awarded the nMRCGP Foundation Medal by the RCGP in 2007 and MBE in 2017 for her services to General Practice.

### *Dr. Seema Safia Arif*

Seema Safia Arif trained as a doctor in India, came to UK and trained to become a consultant oncologist. She has introduced an innovative treatment to Wales previously only available in England. She has led a working group in a voluntary capacity to address health inequalities for BAME communities resulting in securing funding to develop an education resource.



### *Dr Jacinta Tan*

Dr Jacinta Tan is a research psychiatrist and medical ethicist. A Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Swansea University Medical School, she is also an honorary consultant psychiatrist with the Swansea Adult Tier 3 Specialist Eating Disorder Team. In Wales, clinical services for adult eating disorders are newly established and there is little prior research in eating disorders in Wales. Jacinta’s vision, as the sole eating disorder clinical academic in Wales, is to work with patients, their families, clinicians and other academics to develop practical interdisciplinary eating disorder research which directly improves healthcare for eating disorders across the lifespan.



## *Management and Leadership*

### *Uzo Iwobi*

Uzo Iwobi is a former Commissioner to the Commission for Racial Equality UK. Originally from Nigeria, Uzo holds a law degree from the University of Nigeria and she qualified as a solicitor and a barrister and was called to the Nigerian Bar. After moving to Wales, she worked as a Lecturer in Law at the Swansea Law School. She obtained a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) with Distinction from the University of Wales. She founded the African Community Centre (ACC) in Wales and served as the Police National Diversity Team (PNDDT) based at



the Home Office. Uzo was awarded Swansea Bay Woman of the Year (Community Achievement) Award in 2006 and an OBE for contributions to Community Race

Relations in 2008. Uzo was a trustee with the British Red Cross and the UWC Atlantic College. She currently holds the post of Chief Executive Officer of Race Council Cymru.

## *Management and Leadership*

### *Reena Patel*

Reena Patel has worked her way up the career ladder from a teacher, to a member of the senior leadership team and recently becoming successful as the Deputy Head teacher of her school. She is a very passionate, ambitious, hard working and dedicated individual with a strong work ethic. All of these qualities have been instilled within her from her parents and which she has further developed whilst growing up as a British Asian women. She feels her Asian background has helped her to be sensitive and has made her able to integrate with children from other cultures within the Fairwater area who have recently moved to Cardiff from Syria.



### *Angelina Rodriques*

Born in Cardiff, Angelina Rodriques, mother of 3 has overcome many obstacles in life to achieve what she has today. She is the Deputy CEO of an All Wales organisation that provides specialist services to over 6000 victims of Domestic Abuse and other forms of Violence Against women a year.



## *Arts, Culture and Sports*

### *Leanne Rahman*

Leanne Rahman is Arts and Education Project Administrator for the Arts Council of Wales, and previously co-ordinated the SPFP Project for Creative & Cultural Skills, Wales. Leanne was also Senior Arts Development Officer at the Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales. Leanne is recognised for her work coordinating Black History Month Wales.



### *Ify Iwobi*



Award winning Swansea born pianist/composer studied Music Performance at Brunel University London. She is an accomplished classical & contemporary pianist performing across Wales, London and internationally. Ify composes film music as well as scores for soundtracks and her own acoustic works. Ify leads the Ify Iwobi & Co band. They specialise in covers as well as Ify's original works. The band have performed in venues such as Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, Wales Millennium Centre etc.



### *Angeline Tshyane*

Angeline Tshyane born in Kwekwe, Zimbabwe, left Zimbabwe in 2000 when the economic and political situation took a downturn. She started a support group for Zimbabwean women within Wales called Batanai Bambanani Woman's Network Wales (BBWNW) now called Madzimai Pamwe (Mayor of Newport chosen charity 2015). Angeline's greatest ambition is to challenge inequality in society, inspire people to aspire to greater things and to raise the profile of Zimbabwe through the development work being done in the diaspora. Angeline was awarded the BBC Sport Wales Community Coach of the Year Award 2015 for her work in promoting sports development with people of BME backgrounds.



### *Social and Humanitarian*

#### *Susan Cousins*

Susan is a Senior Accredited Counsellor and Supervisor at Cardiff University. Throughout her work she has sought to increase a sense of belonging, build inclusivity and engagement both within Higher Education and within the Community of Cardiff. She is very proud to have been the Chair of Awetu at the start of its journey and most recently the facilitator of the #itooamcardiff campaign where it was a great pleasure to work with so many talented students who supported her in creating a fantastic exhibition that depicts an honest and open dialogue around race.



#### *Ivana Pribanova*



Born in the Czech Republic, Ivana Pribanova moved to Cardiff in 1996 with her family. Despite arriving with very little English, Ivana soon volunteered in a local school, supporting asylum seeking Czech Roma pupils. Throughout the following years, she has grown in confidence and experience, becoming a key figure in promoting Roma integration and welfare.



### *Dr. Grace Kerry*

Dr Grace Kerry is the Founder and Executive Director of Gift of Grace Education Project - an Educational charity for children's development in Nigeria. Grace has a PhD in Special Educational Needs. She is a retired lecturer in Educational Psychology and has taught at all academic levels both in the UK and overseas. She was also advisory teacher to schools in Gwent. Grace is a UPF Ambassador for Peace and a board member for Race Council Cymru. Grace loves public speaking and cooking. She is the author of several academic publications and cookbooks and holds a Guinness Book of Records certificate.



### *Martha Musonza Holman*

Martha Holman was born in Harare, Zimbabwe and left the country in January 2001 due to economic and political hardships. She left behind two sons. She is the founder of Love Zimbabwe charity and Love Zimbabwe Fair Trade Company (CIC) that imports and sells crafts from Zimbabwe. Martha is a true advocate of Fair Trade movement because she believes in equality. She has helped set up 15 Fair trade workers' co-operatives in Zimbabwe and linked different social groups in Zimbabwe with similar groups in Wales. Martha lives in Abergavenny, Wales, with her husband, David, who assists with both the trading and the charity.



## *Business*

### *Kalsoom Akhtar*

Kalsoom Akhtar's life has taken many turns, starting with nothing, to establishing her business, having a family and dealing with her husband's death, and beyond. She has never stopped being a role model for her children as well as maintaining and

progressing her businesses in a fruitful fashion. She always stays focussed, humble, and never proud to seek advice. Whilst consolidating each business she always challenged herself with the next goal and she has always believed in honesty, hard work and self-belief.



### *Thembi Sibanda*

Zimbabwean born Thembi Sibanda is a much celebrated, enterprising woman who studied Marketing at Birmingham College of Tourism and Creative Studies as well as Hairdressing at Tycoch College in Swansea. She has established a thriving hairdressing and beauty salon business called Jeki Hair Salon in Castle Arcade at the very heart of Swansea. Thembi specialises in Afro-hair, including a variety of hairstyles for people from diverse backgrounds. She is a four-time finalist for the UK Afro Hair Awards. She has recently expanded her services to include makeup sessions for all occasions. Thembi believes in giving back to the community by giving a share of business profits to children's charities and donating free hair services to women who are seeking asylum in Swansea.



### *Derin Omole*

Derin Omole is an entrepreneur, a public health specialist and mother of 3 young children. She celebrates diversity, promotes positive intercultural relations and empowers the ethnic minority community through her African Food Business; Twale Cuisine. Derin was challenged to start Twale Cuisine with the help of her husband in 2015, due to the absence of an African restaurant in Swansea and growing misrepresentation of Africans and people from ethnic minority communities. She uses the power of food to tell positive stories about Africans and ethnic minorities. Derin, is also a qualified public health specialist involved in promoting safe sex for women, ethnic minorities and the LGBT community through Terrence Higgins Trust.



## *Self Development*

### *Dhanisha Patel*

Dhanisha Patel works in the real estate department of an international law firm's Cardiff office. She read Politics at Queen Mary University of London, and completed

the LPC at Cardiff Law School. In a by-election in November 2015, Dhanisha was elected as a councillor to represent Ogmores Vale Ward in Bridgend County Borough Council.



### *Versha Sood*

Versha Sood is a motivated & hard working professional working as the Dementia & well being lead at Hafod Care. Having two masters' degrees, she is now working towards her doctorate. She takes the lead for cultural events across Indian British and other community associations in Cardiff & is involved in various charitable activities.



### *Fateha Ahmed*

Fateha Ahmed is a committed and passionate Community Worker with many years of experience having worked for organisations like, Sure Start, Barnados, The Carers Centre, SAWA, CBRG and WIA. Fateha is bilingual and has good networks in the community. She works fulltime but still finds time to volunteer for the community.



### *Benaben Karai*

Benaben Karai has made an extraordinary contribution to the community service. She continues to help people and organizations in need without any financial gain. She is a great role model not only for the Hindu community but for all the communities in Cardiff.



### *Young Achiever*

### *Numa Sidratul Munthaha Ali*

Numa Sidratul is 16 years of age. She has always been inquisitive beyond her maturity and always wanting to be ahead of the game. At the age of 8, she set up a Saturday Club for her younger cousins to spend time in a structured way. She was the Head Girl at her school. She started volunteering at the age of 12 in fundraising events and took the lead role in a play entitled "Forced Marriage". This mentality has driven her passion for equality. She brings new opportunities and experiences to her peers so that they can appreciate and enjoy her ideas.



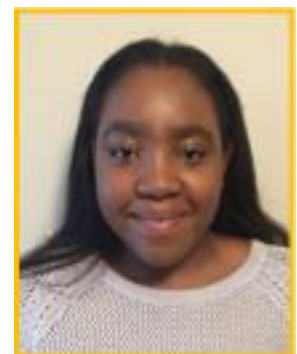
### *Queena Lee*

Originating from Malaysia, Queena Lee moved to the UK at a young age. Now, she studies at Cardiff Sixth Form College with a passion in engaging in local community work across Cardiff. She heads a team of 80 volunteers at local charity, ACE Cardiff, promoting the importance of equal educational opportunity. Keen to inspire, Queena is a fiery public speaker and debater with aspirations to develop a platform to empower more young people to speak out against social inequality.



### *Yasmin Asmin Adelekan-Kamara*

Yasmin Adelekan-Kamara is in her final year of A-levels at Cardiff Sixth Form College. Her interests are mainly science and cooking, as well as teaching. Over the past year she has tutored young children in science and maths and spent time helping the elderly in a care home. This September, she will be commencing a degree in Medicine, as she wants to become a surgeon. She is inspired by women such as Michelle Obama, but ultimately she has her mother to thank for everything she has accomplished this far.



## *Violence Against Women Agenda*

### *Fatma Alan*

Fatma Alan is a Palestinian/Tunisian. She is a survivor of Domestic Abuse. She is also



a mother of a 10 year old boy. After leaving her abusive relationship, her struggle to re-build her life began. With the support from the right people at a devastating moment in her life, she overcame huge cultural, social and economic barriers to achieve her academic goal. She now has a BSc (Hons) in Dental Technology and has just started her career. She wants to inspire other women in similar situations to carry on fighting until they have achieved their dreams.



### *Sheila Jerome*

Sheila Jerome is from Nigeria. She has had many life experiences that have been challenging but have taught her so much. She is a survivor of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early child marriage. After moving to the UK, she became aware of how dangerous these are to women and children's health and well-being and how many people of ethnic minorities are unaware of the dangers of some of their ethnic practices which motivated her to involve herself in her local community and organisation such as BAWSO. She has actively spoken out in view of raising awareness on issues affecting children and women in our society.



### *Omonigho Idegun*

Omonigho Idegun is a mother to two lovely children and an Events organiser for special needs and disabled children and their family. Her personal accomplishment and passion for setting this project was inspired by being a mother of a six year old son with autism. She had organised and also been part of many fundraising events. She has also been a mentor to victims of domestic abuse, a cause that she is passionate about because of her personal experience as a victim of domestic abuse. Despite her ordeals, she has done everything within her power to be a positive role model.



### *Tribute to the Late Angela Kwok*

The late Angela Kwok won the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013 for her outstanding contributions to the Chinese Community. She was a great supporter of WAA/EMWWAA. She will be missed for her lively cheerful disposition, kind and



caring attitude.



## *Lifetime Achievement Awards*

### *Norma Glass MBE*

Norma Glass is a leading member of the Jewish Community and the Welsh representative on the UK Board of Deputies of British Jews. She has extensive experience of community engagement and promoting racial equality in schools and the wider community. Norma is a founder director of Peacemala UK, a member of SACRE.



### *Chantal Patel*

Chantal Patel was born in Mauritius and came to the UK in 1974 to train as a nurse. She completed her nursing training both in general nursing & mental health. Shortly after she was appointed as the Ward sister at the young age of 24. She remained in the post until 1985 when she retired from nursing to look after her children. In 1988 Chantal read law at the University of London. She then attended Bristol law school to undertake her solicitor's course. Chantal was appointed as a lecturer in Land Law, Employment law & Tax law in Swansea. To date she has



been involved with the Indian Society of South West Wales, African Community Centre, Mo Green recycling charity, POBL ( housing) & ABMU. She currently heads her own department of inter-professional studies at the College of Human & Health Sciences at Swansea University.

*Dr Layla Jader, MB ChB, DA, MD (Wales), FMPHM*

Layla Jader was a consultant in Public Health Genomics, qualified in both genetics and public health and retired from the NHS last July having worked in the NHS and academia in Wales for 37 years. Influenced by the quality standards she learned while working in the genetic services in Wales in the 80s, she led a team that won several Golden Helix Awards in 2000. Layla was also the runner up for Doctor and Hospital Doctor of the Year award in 2001 as she went on to produce with her team a pioneering strategy for antenatal screening programme that set the standards and influenced programmes in England and in Wales. In recent years having realised its implications for Public Health, Layla researched widely into epigenetics. She was a true champion as she continued to campaign to influence policy makers of the importance of prioritising children of all ages based on new epigenetic evidence. Layla advocates in prioritising health and education of all children through law.



*Gaynor Antoinette Legall*

Gaynor Legall is a formidable champion of Ethnic Minority women in Wales and wider and tirelessly commits to challenge all inequalities and particularly in health and social care. She works to bring a common sense approach to service delivery for all citizens, be they in Bute town where she was a local councillor or wider. Her legacy is her commitment and advocacy for the rights of those without a voice.



## *Entertainment*

*Hiroko Sue playing Koto (Japanese Instrumental Music)*

Hiroko Sue was born in Yamanashi in Japan. She started to learn the piano at the age of 5, but four years later, inspired by an elderly musician, she turned to the Koto, a



traditional Japanese instrument with 13 strings. She took part in the Korea-Japan International Youth Exchange organized by the Japanese and Korean governments. Since then she has performed worldwide. She continued her studies, learning composition with the composer Akinori Ohsawa in Japan. She performed many concerts in London and subsequently moved to Cardiff to study Music Therapy at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and graduated as a professional Music Therapist. She has given several performances at the Wales Millennium Centre, and at The Gate arts Centre. In 2006, she performed in the presence of The Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall at the royal opening of the George Thomas Hospice in Cardiff.

### *Prasansha Limbu, Nepalese Dance*

Prasansha Limbu is a graduate student at Cardiff University and she will be performing a folk dance. It is a popular song and is considered a part of the tradition in Nepal by all the Nepalese representing different religion, ethnicity and dialect.



### *Bhangra Dhol, India*

Over 50 years in the running, Wales' finest Asian wedding and event DJs, SP Entertainment, provide the ultimate entertainment experience for you and your guests, using state of the art sound & lighting equipment combined with generations of tradition, and extensive experience in the wedding/prom and corporate entertainment industries. SP Entertainment will be providing a performance of the Bhangra Dhol. The Dhol is a very popular folk drum originating from the northern India. Traditionally, the Dhol was used at the time of harvest when the communities would gather to sing and dance to the beat of this powerful drum. The dance moves of the villagers mimicked the actions of the farmers at work. For example, acting out the motions of ploughing the land, cutting the crop and sowing seeds were fun and exciting bhangra dances that were performed to celebrate the harvest season. The Dhol is now used at times of happiness and celebration around the world.



### *Najima Halmamat, Chinese Dance*

Najima Halmamat is 19 years of age and is a student of Swansea University. She is from Xinjiang, Uyghur in



China. Music and dance play an important role in the life of the Uyghurs. She has performed professionally in one of many Chinese celebration events this year. She finds dancing a great source of inspiration for herself

### *Nancy Buka and Mia V Lopez, Madiba Afro Tawe Dancers*

Madiba Afro Tawe Dancers offers the expression of African culture and tradition through rhythmic bodily movement and unique dance steps. The members of the group are from different parts of Africa, The DRC, Nigerian, Cameroon and Ivory Coast. The Lead Dancer is Ms Nancy Buka, the CEO of Lulu Beauty, a retail outlet for beauty related services and products in Swansea. The second dancer is Mia V Lopez. The title of the song which will be used on the 6th May is "Manzil- Manzil" by the artist Mbilia Bel.



### *Sunita Menon*

Sunita Menon is a versatile singer whose biggest strength is her ability to sing in over 13 languages and to sing in various genres ranging from Semi-Classical to Rock. She trained in the Carnatic Classical music in India. In 1993 she started singing professionally as the female lead with one of India's biggest rock bands- 13AD. As a recording artist she has sung in over 35 films. Sunita won the Welsh Asian Woman's Achievement Award in 2013.



## *Acknowledgement*

*Cardiff University Vice-chancellor's office-- Main sponsor*

*BAWSO sponsored Violence Against Women*

*Royal Navy sponsored Management and Leadership*

*The other sponsors include: Race Equality First, Chwarae Teg, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Sixth Form College, Dr S Pawar and Mrs. Kalsoor*

*Patrons: Julie Morgan AM, Jane Hutt AM*

*EMWWAA Management Committee and Supporters:*

*Prof Meena Upadhyaya OBE, Vimla Patel MBE, Tahmina Khan, Sivanes*



*Sivpalan, Samina Khan, Kaori Onoda, Chetna Sinha, Selina Moyo, Jennifer Mentore, Tamasree Mukhopadhya*

*Photo Gallery- EMWWAA Awards 2017*























