



**ETHNIC MINORITY WELSH WOMEN
ACHIEVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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

EMWWA AWARDS

EMWWAA AWARD CEREMONY PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025 6PM



**THE COAL EXCHANGE HOTEL
MOUNT STEWART SQUARE
CARDIFF, CF10 5EB**





Professor Meena Upadhyaya OBE FRCPath FLSW
Founder and chairperson of EMWWAA

17th May 2025

Good evening, Noswaith dda and Namaskar

It's an absolute privilege to celebrate the incredible talent, achievements, and resilience of the remarkable women and girls here in Wales. Let's begin this evening by giving a huge round of applause to all of our finalists – they are truly an inspiration!

The EMWWAA Awards, founded in 2011, have now blossomed into their teenage years, and tonight, we are thrilled to celebrate the 8th award ceremony of this prestigious event. "We believe every woman has the power to embrace her identity, shape her future, and make a meaningful impact on the world". Over the years, these awards have showcased excellence and created a powerful platform for empowering women from all walks of life. Previous winners have gained confidence from

being recognised and are continuing to make a big impact.

We are particularly honoured to welcome our Chief Guest, Baroness Debbie Wilcox, the first female Leader of the Welsh Local Government Association. A huge congratulations to her on her recent appointment as one of the Deputy Speakers in the House of Lords. She is an unwavering role model and a true pioneer. She is an indefatigable defender of human rights. A big round of applause for Baroness Wilcox!

We express our sincere gratitude to our esteemed patrons, Julie Morgan and Jane Hutt, for their continued support and remarkable contributions to public service. Let's give them a well-deserved round of applause!

Tonight, we celebrate 44 finalists who represent around 25 countries but are now making their mark here in Wales. The selection committee had an overwhelming task this year, sifting through an incredible volume of nominations. The large number of brilliant women nominated tells us how much we need to expand our selection team moving forward – and we're ready to do so! We are indebted to our Selection and Judging panel for their expertise and dedication in making this happen.

This year, we're especially excited to announce a new partnership with ITV Cymru Wales, who will join us in spotlighting these extraordinary women's achievements. Through this partnership, ITV Cymru Wales has already offered invaluable Media and Confidence Training Sessions to our nominees, equipping them with essential skills for TV and broadcast appearances.

Early this month, in collaboration with Prof Dipak Ramji from Cardiff University and 7 other professors from other Welsh Universities we launched the Welsh Ethnic Minority Professors Initiative (WEMPI) at the Senedd Cymru. It aims to address the underrepresentation of ethnic minority professors in senior leadership and management positions and how it can inspire the younger generation.

Looking ahead, just a month from now, on June 22nd, we'll gather at Brangwyn Hall in Swansea for our Community Cohesion Event the Festival of Communities which will showcase diverse music and dances, healthcare and cultural awareness and finish with multicultural cuisine. While there is no charge for entrance, but registration is required at this

link:<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-communities-tickets-1033720244077?aff=oddttdtcreator>. You can find more information on this event on the flyer in this programme.

We're also excited about our next major event – the Health Inequalities conference on November 1st, which will be led by Baroness Finlay. These events are just a glimpse of the ongoing work we're doing to create lasting change and support the women who are shaping Wales and beyond. This information can be found on our websites EMWWAA.org.uk and EMWWH.uk.

Speaking of shaping the future, we are so proud of the many EMWWAA finalists and winners who are now running for positions in the Senedd. Their influence and leadership will no doubt inspire the next generation of women leaders!

A special thanks to Cardiff University, our steadfast main sponsor, for their continued support. I'd also like to warmly welcome Cardiff University's new Vice Chancellor, Wendy Larnier – we are so excited to have you with us! We also thank other major sponsors including the Welsh Government, the University of South Wales, the Unite, BAWSO, S4C, and Cardiff Sixth Form College. Other sponsors include, LOUD AND CLEAR, and Race Equality First.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful compères, Chantal Patel and Natalie Jones. For the first time, we have a Welsh-speaking compère from an ethnic minority background, which is an important milestone for inclusivity and representation. Thank you both for your dedication and passion. We also thank our board of Trustees and volunteers for their tireless work enabling this event. Finally, I thank all of you for coming together to this ceremony and adding more grace to it.

Let's continue to uplift and empower women, not just today but every day. Enjoy the evening, and once again, let's raise our glasses to the incredible women who inspire us all!



Chief guest - BARONESS WILCOX OF NEWPORT

Lady Wilcox was born in Tylorstown in the Rhondda, she attended Porth County Grammar School for Girls, is a graduate of the University of London (Central School of Speech and Drama) and has an MA in Education from the University of Wales.

Lady Wilcox taught in Brixton in South London, was Head of Drama and Media studies at Hartridge High School in Newport and then Head of the Performing Arts Faculty and Senior Management Team at Hawthorn High School, Pontypridd with over thirty-five years' experience in front-line education. She was an external examiner for both the WJEC and AQA and became the Principal Examiner for A level Theatre Studies.

In 2004 she won the seat of the Gaer Ward at Newport City Council. She subsequently won a further three elections in 2008, 2012 and 2017.

In 2016 Councillor Debbie Wilcox became the first female Leader of Newport City Council and in May 2017 led her group to victory establishing a strong Labour majority administration in the city.

In June 2017, she became the first female Leader of the Welsh Local Government Association, the body representing all councils in Wales.

She also represented Wales as a member of the Local Government Association (LGA) Executive in London.

She served on the governing bodies of Gaer Primary School and The John Frost School in Newport for fifteen years. She was Chair of One Newport, the public services board and has formerly served as an independent member of the Arts Council of Wales.

In 2018 she was invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts which is an award granted to individuals who the RSA judges to have made outstanding achievements to social progress and development.

In Theresa May's Resignation Honours' List 2019, Cllr Wilcox was elevated to the House of Lords as a Life Peer, having been awarded the title of *Baroness Wilcox of Newport*.

In March 2020 Lady Wilcox was appointed as an Opposition Whip and

Shadow Spokesperson for Women & Equalities as part of the Lords Front Bench team. In March 2021 she was appointed as Shadow Spokesperson for Wales and as the Education Whip.

She has recently been appointed as one of the Deputy Speakers in the House of Lords and will be taking up her seat on the Woolsack in the coming months

Presenters



CHANTAL PATEL

Chantal is a passionate leader and advocate for ethics, education, and community development. With a strong background in governance, healthcare, and public engagement, she has played a pivotal role in shaping policies, supporting underrepresented communities, and driving meaningful change. Her commitment to fostering inclusivity, mentoring future leaders, and ensuring ethical decision-making has made a lasting impact across various sectors. Her dedication, vision, and influence make her a true force for positive transformation in society.



NATALIE JONES

Natalie Jones is the Education, Diversity, and Welsh Language Manager for S4C, the Carmarthenshire Coordinator for Race Council Cymru, and a Board Member for Adnodd, the Black Welsh Music Awards, Coed Dylan, and EMWWAA. A former columnist for Golwg magazine, she has contributed to the book *Fel Yr Wyt* and authored *20 Colourful Welsh People*. As a Black woman and mother of Caribbean heritage, she has first-hand experience of the barriers that exist within our communities and a deep commitment to driving meaningful change. A fluent Welsh speaker, she holds degrees in Adolescent, Applied, and Clinical Psychology, as well as a Secondary School Education degree.

PROGRAMME

6.00 DRINK RECEPTION

6.30 WELCOME

6.35 CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION TO ALL FINALISTS

7.10 PROFESSOR MEENA UPADHYAYA

7.15 BARONESS WILCOX

7.30 STARTERS

8.00 ENTERTAINMENTS

INDIAN DANCE – DR SUCHITRA RAJAN

INDONESIAN DANCE - WULAN BAKER

AFRICAN- AIDA DIOPER

CHINESE DANCE-KE ZHOU

8.20 DINNER

9.20 AWARD CEREMONY

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY & HEALTHCARE

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORTS

SELF DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN

YOUNG ACHIEVER

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AGENDA

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

RHODRI MORGAN AWARD

10.45 CARRIAGES





Certificate presentation to all the finalists

Baroness Wilcox

Science, Technology and Healthcare

Prof Julian Sampson, Prof Wendy Warner

Dr Andrew Goodall, Prof Sue Wong

**Highly Meritorious Contribution Science
Technology and Healthcare**

Prof Sue Tranka, Cerith Matthews, Dr Anita Parbhoo

Management and Leadership

Judith Paget, Lord Mayor - Helen Lloyd Jones

Rae Cornish, Prof Gareth Davies,

**Highly Meritorious Contribution for
Management and Leadership**

Felicity Evans, Katherine Roberts, Ruth Meadows

Arts, Culture and Sport

Prof Jean White, Prof Stephen Riley

Prof Radhika Mohan Ram, Mutale Merrill

**Highly Meritorious Contribution for
Arts Culture and Sport**

Bethan Webb, Cllr Julie Sangani, Amelia John

Self Development

Cllr Hugh Thomas, Jenny Rathbone MS

Prof Louise Bright, Dr Mahaboob Basha,

Business

Prof Sheila Hunt, Sara Peacock

Social and Humanitarian

Prof Terry Threadgold, Kainshka Narayan MP

Rocio Cifuentes, Prof. Helena Gaunt

Meritorious Contribution for Social and Humanitarian

Dr Jehan Khatib

Young Achiever

Paula Downey, Shavanah Taj

Prof Hywel Thomas, Rhian Connick

Violence Against Women

Samsunear Ali, Sally Ann Efstathiou

Emma Wools, Aliya Mohammed

Highly Meritorious Contributions for the Violence Against Women

Humie Webbe, Major Harrison

Lifetime Achievement Award

Jane Hutt, Julie Morgan

Rhodri Morgan Award

Debbie Wilcox, Jane Hutt, Julie Morgan



Chef Steve Gomes's Menu

Starter..

Bombay veg samosa chaat

**(A big starter with chana and sauces will add Papri
and sev with fresh pomegranates)**

Mains

Goan chicken curry

Paneer mutter

Saag aloo

Dal tadka

Jeera Pilau

Naans

Raita, Pickle, Chutney and Salad

Dessert

Carrot pudding with ice cream



Chef Steve Gomes

Chef, Stephen Gomes is officially the most outstanding Asian chef in the UK by Wales on line. Appeared and represented Wales in the Great British Menu and judged Euroskill. Medals include the best UK Indian chef for over a decade. He also won at the House of Commons and the Oscars of awards, "the craft guild of chefs" award for best ethnic chef in the UK. This 3rd generation chef recently won the King's award in 2024 at the Khadya Khurak from the government of Gujarat (India)

EMWWAA Judging Panel

Science, Technology & Healthcare and Management & Leadership



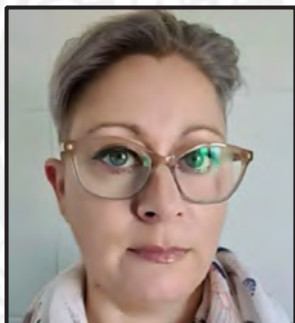
PROFESSOR SUE WONG CBE

Professor Sue Wong: Professor Susan Wong is currently Professor of Experimental Diabetes and Metabolism at Cardiff University and Honorary Consultant Physician in Diabetes at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. She is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales. She has many years of research into the causes of type 1 diabetes, as well as clinical experience in treatment of all aspects of diabetes mellitus. She considers that activities that engage and involve the public understanding scientific research and educating people who do not have a medical or scientific training about medical issues are very important, and integral to her work. She is very keen to address issues of equality, diversity and inclusion and to promote professional development opportunities for all, including women in under-represented communities through mentorship, career advice, and obtaining leadership and management skills within the Welsh Higher Education and Healthcare system.



PROFESSOR JULIAN SAMPSON CBE

Julian Sampson is Emeritus Professor at Cardiff University School of Medicine where he was previously head of the Institute of Medical Genetics and then Director of the Division of Cancer and Genetics. He developed diagnostics and treatments for rare inherited conditions and with support from Welsh Government, established the Wales Gene Park in 2002 with the aim of “harnessing genetics and genomics to advance research, healthcare, education and innovation”, serving as its Director until 2019. He is an advisor to several medical charities in the UK and USA that represent the interests of people with rare inherited conditions and a trustee of the European Hereditary Tumour Group. He has also served as Chair of the Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee and on advisory groups for the Department of Health (England) and the National Institutes of Health (USA).



RAE CORNISH

Rae has worked for Welsh Government since 1998 in a wide variety of roles including HR, project delivery and policy design and development. A strong theme of social justice runs through her career, working with non-employed adults, lone parents, on offender learning, violence against women, and equality. She is currently the Deputy Director for

Sustainable Futures and is responsible for overseeing the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the relationship with the Future Generations Commissioner, and for policy capability and impact assessment within Welsh Government. She is a qualified coach and mentor operating across the Welsh public sector. Rae was responsible for the first plan in Wales to advance period dignity: *A Period Proud Wales*. She has been and continues to be an advocate for greater equality in healthcare, particularly focused on women's health.

Arts, culture & Sports and Social & Humanitarian



PROFESSOR RADHIKA MOHANRAM

Radhika Mohanram was born and raised in India and is Professor of Postcolonial Studies in the School of English, Communication and Philosophy in Cardiff University. She is currently working on two different projects: 1) a funded project on collecting life the histories of Sri Lankan Tamil and Syrian refugees in South Wales and 2) a monograph on how the cultural trauma from the 1947 Indian partition

still reverberates in contemporary India.



MUTALE MERRILL OBE

Mutale is concerned with improving and transforming the lives of individuals by working in and through government and organisations. To this end she has held senior leadership positions for over thirty years in the public and third sectors, in the field of social care, health, housing and international development. She has been instrumental in setting up successful community-based organisations. For example, she was the founding Chief Executive of Bawso, the first Women's Aid organisation to provide specialist services to Black Asian Minority Ethnic women and children facing all forms of abuse and violence. Her other senior management roles have included being the first Chair of the Care Council for Wales (Social Care Wales), the first Vice Chair of Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, and the first Independent Chair of the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales (Llais). Mutale is currently on the Welsh Government Board as a Non-Executive Director. She has been extremely fortunate to receive several awards over the years which illustrate the regard in which her work is held.



DR ANITA PARBHOO

Dr Anita Parbhoo is a Consultant in General Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. She grew up and studied in Wales, did her Medical Training in London, and returned to Wales in 2018. Dr Parbhoo was a runner-up for the EMWWAA Award of Outstanding Contribution to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and a winner of the Rhodri Morgan Award in 2021, and now acts as an Ambassador for EMWWAA. She is Chair of the CTM UHB Race Equality Network, a staff network involved in addressing inequalities and wellbeing of ethnic minority staff, working with the Health Board's leadership and front-line healthcare workers. She is passionate about pastoral care, teaching at every opportunity, teamwork, and supporting career development. She lives with her husband and 2-year-old daughter. She is also a violinist in her spare time.

Business and self-development



PROFESSOR TERRY THREADGOLD

Professor Terry Threadgold worked at Cardiff University (1999 – 2014) after a long career working in Australia at the University of Sydney and Monash University. She was Pro Vice Chancellor, Staff and Diversity at Cardiff University from 2008-2014. She was chosen as Stonewall's Welsh workplace champion in 2012. She has an international reputation as a feminist scholar and researcher and for her interdisciplinary work in feminist discourse analysis and critical theory. Her book *Feminist Poetics: Poesis, Performance, Histories* (Routledge 1997) was a study of race, nation and identity in Australian literature, media and popular culture. Her research on the UK media coverage of asylum and refugee issues between 1999 and 2009 is well known and had considerable impact on Welsh government policy in these areas at the time. Her report for Joseph Rowntree, *Immigration and Inclusion in South Wales* was published in 2008. Since her retirement she has worked as a consultant to more than a dozen universities and as a mentor/coach to senior academic women in the UK and Ireland. She was elected a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales (LSW) in 2015. She has been a member of the LSW Council from 2016 – 2025. She was Treasurer of the Society and a member of the Executive (2020 – 2024), and is currently Chair of the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Working Group.



PROFESSOR SHEILA HUNT

Professor Sheila is a semi-retired academic with a background in health, nursing, midwifery, and higher education. She has held senior leadership positions in Universities in England, Scotland, and Wales and within the NHS and has delivered innovation, change and high-quality service. She has provided leadership and motivation to professionally and culturally diverse groups of 400+ staff and over 3500 students. She now offers

education consultancy, personal and leadership coaching and mentorship to organisations dealing with change and individuals building their careers in health, education, government, and the charity sectors.



Dr. KAPILAN RADHAKRISHNAN

Dr. Kapilan Radhakrishnan is an accomplished academic and expert in the field of Applied Computing, currently serving as the Academic Director of the School of Applied Computing at the Wales Institute of Science and Art, University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Swansea. With a career spanning over two decades, Dr. Radhakrishnan has established

himself as a leader in computer networks, cybersecurity, AI and higher education.

Throughout his career, Dr. Radhakrishnan has held various academic positions, progressing from Graduate Teaching Assistant at Glasgow Caledonian University to his current role as Academic Director. He has been instrumental in shaping the applied computing curriculum at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, where he has worked since 2011. Dr. Radhakrishnan's expertise is further evidenced by his numerous professional qualifications in the field of networks and cybersecurity. He is also a Senior Fellow of Advance HE, recognising his commitment to teaching excellence.

In addition to his academic responsibilities, Dr. Radhakrishnan has been actively involved in research. His interests encompass computer networks, cybersecurity, and the application of artificial intelligence in cybersecurity. Dr. Radhakrishnan's contributions to the field are reflected in his numerous publications, covering topics such as routing protocols for mobile ad-hoc networks, voice quality assessment, and security in emerging networks. His work has been published in reputable journals and presented at international conferences, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to advancing knowledge in his field.

Young Achiever and Violence Against Women Agenda



PROFESSOR SUE DENMAN

Sue Denman 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. She founded the social enterprise Together for Change which brings the voice of communities to policy makers and promotes knowledge exchange to better integrate policy, research and community action .



Dr. STELLA DIAMANTIDI

Dr Stella Diamantidi is Associate Dean Student Engagement at Cardiff Metropolitan University since 2019. Prior to this role, she was Head of Business Dept. with line management responsibilities for large academic teams enabling them to deliver high quality student-centered provision. She has designed and delivered business and law degrees (QLDs) assessing the achievements of students as well as teaching and learning. She chairs a number of Examining Boards; she is a Senior HEA Fellow and a QAA Reviewer for England.



ALISON JACKSON

A Glaswegian by birth, Alison is also a Modern Languages graduate of the University of Glasgow. However her professional context is in social work. Starting out as a Probation Officer in the 1970s, twenty years later she moved into the area of Family Court work. Since 2006 she has worked for the Welsh Government as a Family Court Advisor. Her choice of career was shaped by her lifelong commitment to campaigning for peace (including conflict

resolution), justice and inclusion.

In her leisure time Alison enjoys dancing and teaching Scottish Country Dancing. She shares the view taken by an eminent psychologist that Scottish Country Dancing incorporates most of the elements needed for human wellbeing. She also relishes its global appeal: it is danced across the world by dancers from a wide variety of ethnic groups, nationalities, ages, genders and abilities.



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 and Transport, with responsibility for the introduction of the Wales Spatial Plan and from 2003 to 2007, she has operated as a self-employed consultant, most notably with the Review of Affordable Housing in Wales.

SELECTION COMMITTEE



Dr. RHIAN MORGAN

Dr Rhian Morgan is the Education and Engagement Manager at Wales Gene Park. Her background is in biomedical research, and she has worked in academic, industrial, and clinical settings. Additionally, she has worked with individuals and families affected by genetic conditions as part of the Telling Stories Understanding Real Life Genetics project the University of South Wales, and later at Genetic Alliance UK. At Wales Gene Park, she leads a busy and varied programme of genetics and genomics-related activities for the public, schools and colleges, health professionals, and patients and families affected by rare, genetic and undiagnosed conditions. Rhian is a Trustee for Inside Out Cymru, an Arts and Mental Health charity delivering creative activities across South Wales, and volunteers for the charity Ffrindimi, which supports vulnerable people throughout Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

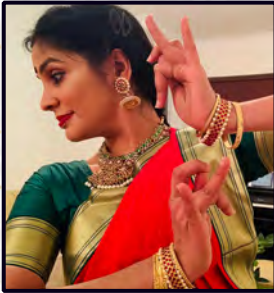


Dr. JUPING YU

Dr Juping Yu is an Associate Professor of Diversity and Inclusion (Health and Care) with a background in nursing and preventive medicine. Her research focuses on enhancing care and support for people from diverse backgrounds regarding age, ethnicity, health and socioeconomic status across health and social care settings. She is interested in empathy, compassionate care, social wellbeing, tool development and validation, and consensus methods. She is passionate about diversity and inclusion and has consolidated her work within this area by successfully engaging various under-represented populations in her work. She co-leads the Ethnic Minority Research Advisory Group (EMRAG) at the University of South Wales to promote inclusivity in research through trust, ongoing engagement and partnerships with ethnic minority communities and third sector organisations.

ENTERTAINMENT

INDIAN DANCE



Dr. Suchitra Rajan, a consultant dermatologist at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, is a seasoned dancer, trained in Bharatnatyam and also loves performing contemporary dance forms. She is currently being mentored by Dr Santosh Nair at Samarpan, an Indian arts organisation in Cardiff. She is going to perform a simple choreo to the fight song : "Fight Song", showcases a woman's everlasting love for herself. She is not a stereotype or any label society gives her. She is an individual with the power to stand up for herself and fight for who she is and what she believes in.



INDONESIAN DANCE

Dancers: Onny Moore, Wulan Baker, and Olive Gough

The "Pabat Pibui" dance from Kalimantan province in Indonesia holds a meaningful place in the indigenous "Kenyah" group traditions. The dance expresses their love of music and community celebration.



AFRICAN DANCE

Dancer: Aida Diop, a teacher, and choreographer of traditional West African dance Dioprhythms

Aida Diop will share traditions of dance in her homeland, and share the meaning and rituals and significance the of their arts. Traditional dance from my village called Ouakam which is a fishing village.



CHINESE FAN DANCE

Dancer: Lanting Xu

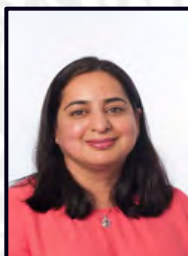
Lanting Xu, is inspired by one of the most celebrated calligraphy masterpieces in Chinese history. This fan dance embodies the ethereal beauty of classical Chinese art, where every movement flows like ink on silk. The choreography is both graceful and dynamic, mirroring the expressive brushstrokes of the original work. With elegant fan techniques, flowing skirts, and poetic footwork, the performance captures the harmony between motion and stillness, evoking the timeless charm of traditional Chinese aesthetics.

Science, Technology and Healthcare



Dr TIPSWALO DAY

Dr Tipswalo Day multi-award-winning Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. She is an organiser of the Race Matters in Maternity.



Dr SHANU BHATIA

Dr Shannu Bhatia is the President of the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry, Clinical Reader/ Honorary Consultant and Academic Lead for Paediatric Dentistry at Cardiff University School of Dentistry.



Dr SONALI DASGUPTA

Senior Consultant Oncologist at Velindre Cancer Centre. Founder and lead of South-East Wales Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP) Service.



Dr MABROUKA ABUHMIDA

Dr Mabrouka Abuhmida is an Artificial Intelligence specialist, senior lecturer, research and innovation group leader and passionate STEM woman of the year 23/24.



Dr NEERA AGARWAL

Neera Agarwal is a consultant Diabetologist and Vice-Chair of the UK specialist Advisory Committee.

Management and Leadership



SELIMA BAHADUR

Selima Bahadur is a dedicated leader blending her Welsh and Pakistani heritage to foster inclusivity.



ASMUT PRICE

Asmut Price, a dedicated social housing professional with 30+

years of experience.



SAMANTHA ANDERSON

Samantha Anderson - instrumental part of the NYAS Cymru Senior Leadership team in Wales, working tirelessly in advancing the human rights of the most vulnerable children in Wales. Sam has helped ensure that young people have their rights protected and advanced. She has created systemic change.



Dr KERRY-ANN HOLDER

Dr Kerry-Ann is a black, Welsh Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Head of Child Psychology in Cardiff. She is passionate about promoting anti-racism, equality, inclusivity, and representation within the health board, wider educational network, and her personal life.



Cllr. RUBA SIVAGNANANS

Ruba is a county councillor for St Augustine's ward, Penarth and a Cabinet Member in the Vale of Glamorgan. She also worked as a Senior Caseworker for Stephen Doughty MP in a busy constituency office conducting constituency casework and liaising with ministers and government departments to resolve local issues and support constituents.

Arts, Culture and Sports



MOLARA AWEN

The current chair of Black History 365 Cymru. She has worked in the Arts Council,

National Theatre of Wales



ROOPA VYAS

Roopa Vyas is the Chief Operating Officer of Her Game Too, an initiative promoting gender equality in sports.



Dr THANIA ACRON

Puerto Rican dance movement psychotherapist and researcher. Course Leader for the MA Arts Health & Wellbeing at the University of South Wales. She directs the Body Hotel CIC, delivering wellbeing



PROFESSOR FLORENCE AYISI

Florence Ayisi - Professor of International Documentary Film at the Faculty of Business and Creative Industries, University of South Wales.



CHINYERE CHUKWUDI-OKEH

Chinyere Chukwudi-Okeh is a published writer in Nigeria and Wales. She holds a Distinction MA in Creative Writing from Swansea University. Endorsed as a UK Global Talent by the Arts Council of England, she is also a Bronze Winner of the Wales Mental Health Awards. Her skills and experience encompass scriptwriting, storytelling, spoken word, and cultural performances.

Self Development



SHUBNAM AZIZ

Shubnam Aziz is a Senior Leader at Mount Stuart Primary School. She's renowned for promoting diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism. A pioneer of the Curriculum for Wales, she supports schools in transitioning to anti-racist practices. Recognised nationally, Shubnam's impactful work includes curriculum reform, leadership in diversity training, and community engagement projects.



HINTSA ABRAHA

Hintsa has been an Advice and Support Caseworker at the Welsh Refugee Council for the past 18 months and has also worked in the Triage team since 2022. She helps asylum seekers in Wales to access their rights, get support for the challenges they face and get advice on how to overcome them.



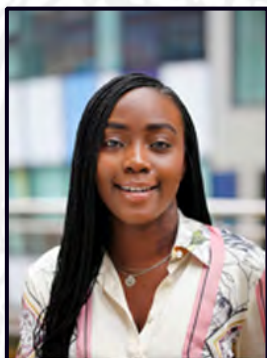
PARUL PRIYA SHARMA

Priya completed master's in Psychology in Hindi in India. Despite her weakness in English, Priya works as a mid-day supervisor in her local school and manages her business, 'Prya's Beauty'



PRISCILLA ADDEY-BLANKSON

Priscilla Addey-Blankson Originally from Ghana, continues to serve community and provide support to RCC where she provides support to the Windrush Cymru elders.



THERESA OGBEKHIULU

Theresa is a passionate advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion, blending professional expertise with personal experiences in higher education. With extensive experience in social research, governance, and student engagement, she leads initiatives promoting anti-racism, decolonising, inclusivity, and accessible opportunities, driving meaningful societal change in the HE sector and beyond.

Business



PARUL SOOD

Dentist and owner of Gentle Dental Practice Aberdare. She also owns 2 other dental practices in South Wales. She is a Foundation dentist trainer and trains overseas dentists and nurses.



SHRUTI CHANDRATEYA

BSc in Chemistry and a Diploma in Business Management. She is a Kumon instructor, committed to nurturing young minds.

Social and Humanitarian finalists



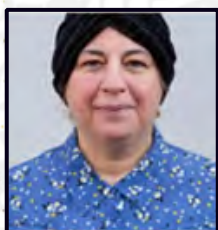
YEN YEN LAI

Yen Yen Lai - a powerful advocate for intercultural understanding and inclusive education. Through her tireless work, she has brought communities closer together, nurturing a sense of unity respect, and belonging for people of all backgrounds Yen Yen is the older people team lead at the Chinese in Wales Association.



NEELUFER (NELLY) ADAM-QUEEN NICHE

Nelly Adam, aka Queen Niche, is a thought provoking, motivational public speaker, BSc, MSC, and CIPD qualified public speaker and human rights activist. She champions racial justice through BLM, COP, and Palestine rallies, led the Zero Racism Wales campaign, and works to combat Islamophobia and racism across Wales.



ALIYA KHALIL

Aliya Khalil is an architectural engineer, fled from the sectarian war in Iraq to

protect her family and made Swansea her home.



MENATALLA GAMEL ABDELGHANI KASEM

She integrates academic insights with community support to advocate for inclusivity and accessibility



AREATHA COMANESCU

Areatha is the Volunteer Coordinator for The Birth Partner Project and Manager of Plasnewydd Out of School Club. Community Mentor for the Childcare and Playwork Sector supporting Welsh Government. Trustee for Clybiau Plant Cymru and previously served as a Trustee for Women Connect First.



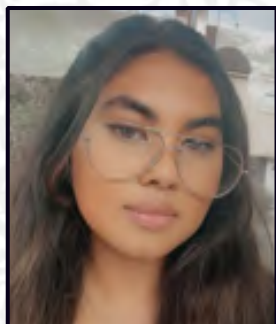
PERMINDER DHILLON

Perminder Dhillon, Project Leader for the Welsh Asian Heritage Project, Arweinydd Prosiect, Prosiect Treftadaeth, Asiaidd Cymru, was awarded the 'Contributions to Race Equality and Inclusion Award 2024'. Perminder's work spans decades of advocacy, community empowerment, and organisational transformation. She has supported >500 organisations in enhancing leadership, governance and inclusion.



MALI RUPARELIA

Mali Ruparilia is a Programme Director for an International BSc degree, Swansea University. The degree recruits from Italy and Japan, supporting global knowledge exchange and enhances international student to travel for employment opportunities. She is also a part-time researcher with Hywel Dda University Health Board.



SIMRAN FARZANA SOSI

Simran is a first-year biomedical science student at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Miss Teen Cardiff 2023, a course representative, and a youth interviewer for Cardiff Council.



SHENONA MITRA

Miss Shenona Mitra is studying medicine at Kings College, London and doing BSc in global health at present. Previous Vice Chair of Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales for 4 years.



REETIKA SINGH

Reetika is a dedicated Sikh woman empowering her community through education, arts, and cultural preservation. Her A grade in GCSE Punjabi inspires others, while her passion for reciting holy prayers connects generations. Through her cooking, she fosters unity and raising osteoporosis awareness in Wales, particularly for Women, making her a true Young Achiever.



ODERA CHIBUZOR

Odera Chibuzor is an aspiring lawyer studying A Levels at Cardiff Sixth Form College, and joined the College in 2024 and is studying Mathematics, English Literature, History and Politics



HIYA RAY

Hiya is a student at Cardiff Sixth Form College, and joined the College in 2023 on a full academic scholarship, and is studying Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics



NITHYA MENON

Nithya Menon, a second-year medical student at Aston University, excels as a classical dancer, gymnast, and cheerleader. A Bharatanatyam performer trained under esteemed gurus,

Violence against women agenda finalists



NANCY LIDUBWI

Nancy Lidubwi is Bawso's Head of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Policy and Business. She ensures that Government policy on VAWDASV addresses the needs of victims of abuse and exploitation. She ensures that Bawso can access financial resources for their prevention, protection, and support work.



AMINAT OLADUNIOYE AYODELE

In addition to her professional pursuits, Aminat is deeply committed to making a positive impact in society by exhibiting a strong passion for women's empowerment and girl child education. She is the founder and executive director of a not-for-profit organisation, Women and Girls Voice Advocacy Initiative, and a YouTube presenter for the initiative. She is also an author and a coach.



SHAMIMA CHOWDHURY-ISLAM

Shamima Chowdhury-Islam is a dedicated advocate for victims of domestic abuse, particularly within BME communities. Working at Bawso in North Wales and has offered personalised casework services for victims, connecting them with refuge, safety and counselling, barriers.



SAMINA ALI

Sam is a proactive Digital Consultant and Non-Executive Board Member for the Centre for Digital Public Services. She serves as an ambassador for Women's Aid and Trustee for the Employers Initiative on Domestic Abuse.

Life time achievement finalists



AGNES XAVIER PHILLIPS

Agnes Xavier-Phillips has successfully completed careers in the nursing profession, in the legal/business world and in her various roles since her retirement 9 years ago. She is a truly inspirational person, always positive, always determined, a great leader and an absolutely brilliant, role model.



Dr GRACE KERRY

Dr. Grace Kerry, a retired lecturer, an experienced Educational Consultant specializing in Special Educational Needs, ESL, and Educational Psychology. She is also the Founder of the Gift of Grace Education Project in Nigeria. A trustee of Race Council Cymru author, Peace Ambassador, and advocate for ethnic minority representation.



DOROTHY ANDERSON

Dorothy arrived in Cardiff from Jamaica in 1963, overcoming racism to build a life of care and compassion. A retired NHS Nurse and active Windrush Cymru member, she's dedicated to community, faith, and family. At 85, Dorothy continues inspiring others with her advocacy and compassion.



SUSAN COUSINS

Susan Cousins, author of *Overcoming Everyday Racism: Building Resilience and Wellbeing in the Face of Discrimination and Microaggressions* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers), is Senior Compliance Advisor, Race-Religion and Belief at Cardiff University. An experienced counsellor and supervisor, she has also served as an Advance HE Associate, promoting equity and inclusion.

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WINNERS OF 2025 AWARDS

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WINNERS OF 2025 AWARDS

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Dr SHANU BHATIA

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**NEELUFUR (NELLY)
ADAM - QUEEN NICHE**



PERMINDER DHILLON

MERITORIOUS CONTRIBUTION AWARD



MALI RUPARELIA

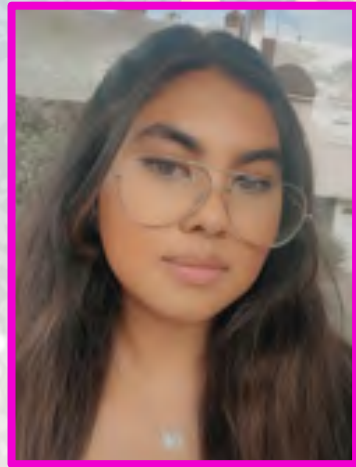


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HIYA RAY



Dr SHANU BHATIA



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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AWARD



AMINAT OLADUNIOYE AYODELE

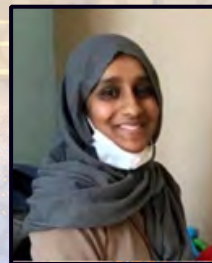


SAMINA ALI

HIGHLY MERITORIOUS CONTRIBUTION AWARD



NANCY LIDUBWI



SHAMIMA CHOWDHURY-ISLAM



WINNERS OF 2025 AWARDS

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Dr THANIA ACRON



MOLARA AWEN

HIGHLY MERITORIOUS CONTRIBUTION AWARD



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WINNERS OF 2025 AWARDS

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AWARDS























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Llywodraeth Cymru
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DATE : 22nd June, 2025

VENUE: Brangwyn Hall, Guildhall Rd, Swansea, SA1 4PE

TIME : 1pm - 6pm

CONTACT : upadhyaya@cardiff.ac.uk



**Cyngor Abertawe
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The launch of the Welsh Ethnic Minority Professors Initiative (WEMPI)



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in the Senedd Cymru
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WEMPI

Welsh Ethnic Minority
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Some proceeds from this ceremony will go to LATCH Welsh Children's Cancer Charity

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