Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Association

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



Newsletter 2023

Good evening, Noswaith dda and Namaskar,

I am privileged today to welcome everyone to this ceremony to celebrate the talent of our worthy women and girls in Wales. So, first, a huge round of applause for all our finalists. What a momentous time to hold our celebrations immediately a week after the unforgettable and glorious King's Coronation.

Today marks the 7th EMWWAA (Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Association) award ceremony and 14 years since the launch of this



initiative in 2010. We are proud to be able to host it today here at this iconic building with all of you.

We are honoured to welcome the Right Honourable Mark Drakeford, MS First Minister of Wales as our chief guest; my sincere gratitude for his continued support of our organisation and our condolences to him for his recent precious loss.

This year, we received a record number of high-calibre nominations. We were particularly pleased to get nominations for refugees fleeing Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. I am ever so grateful to Dr Rhian Morgan and Dr Juping Yu from our selection committee, who had the challenging task of scoring the nominees by subjecting them to a 10-point grid system and our prestigious honourable panel of judges who interviewed 48 finalists in half a day. All our finalists are high achievers, and they are winners for me. When I first started my journey several decades ago, I could not find a single role model in Wales from an ethnic minority background; now we have many more than 100. It would not have been possible without your support and the EMWWAA award initiative, and our recent book, Seventy Years of Struggle and Achievement is a testament to it.

I congratulate and celebrate the recent distinguished achievements of some of our BME EMWWAA winners or finalists - ShavanaTaj becoming the first BME General Secretary of Wales TUC, Kamila Hawthorne the first ethnic minority woman to be the President of the Royal College of General Practice, Rocio Cifuentes, the first Children Commissionaire in Wales, Uzo Iwobi CBE, the first BME specialist advisor in the Welsh Government, Julie Sangani, the first BME Cabinet member in Cardiff Council and finally Bablin Molik, the first woman of colour as Lord Mayor-elect in South Glamorgan. These are just a few examples. My apologies if some have not been mentioned this evening, and we are always delighted to hear about your achievements if you would like to get in touch. A big round of applause for all past EMWWAA family members, and we are very proud to hear about your success stories

Events such as the murder of George Floyd and the disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic led to the launch of the Antiracist Action Plan last year by the Wales Government, the first of its type in the world. The success of this plan is incumbent on the diverse communities in Wales working in unison. To that effect, EMWWAA, in collaboration with the Welsh Government (supported by the community and organisation leaders) is holding a music and culture event to promote Community Cohesion within and across communities in Wales on 2nd July at 2 pm at the City Hall – please do look at the flyers that we have distributed. This event will aid in bringing together diverse grassroots organisations/communities to celebrate our diverse cultures and highlight the importance of community cohesion. Further details of the event; and how to register for it can be found on our website.

Last year our sister organisation, Ethnic Minority Women in Welsh Healthcare, EMWWH organised a brilliant conference on the highly topical crucial issue- Health Inequalities, Chaired by Prof Sue Wong, and it was much appreciated by the attendees. Given an immense appetite to continue with this theme, we propose to organise another meeting at the end of this or next year.

I express my heartiest gratitude to our sponsors (Cardiff University, Welsh Government, Unite Cymru, HEIW, BAWSO, Chwarae Teg, University of South Wales, Oxfam Cymru, Hwb Cymru Africa, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Unison, Meithrin Cymru, Loud and Clear and RCC). We also thank our three ambassadors from the 2021 award ceremony for their support. I am grateful to our comperes for this evening, Shavanah Taj and Cllr Patience Bentu. I extend my gratitude to our esteemed judges, the Selection Committee, our patrons, the EMWWAA Management Committee, the artists, the volunteers, the guests, the attendees, all nominators, and last but not least, the applicants and their families. I thank all of you for coming together to this ceremony and adding more grace to it. I hope you find this evening enjoyable and inspirational.

Chief Guest

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS, First Minister of Wales

Mark was born and brought up in west Wales before moving to Cardiff more than 30 years ago. Since then he has lived in the Pontcanna area of Cardiff. A former probation officer, youth justice worker and Barnardos project leader in Ely and Caerau, he has been a professor of Social Policy and Applied Social Sciences at Cardiff University. Mark has also taught previously at Swansea University.

In the 1980s and 1990s Mark was a Labour Councillor on South Glamorgan County Council, specialising in education issues, including Welsh medium education. Between 2000 and 2010 he



worked as the Cabinet's health and social policy adviser at the Welsh Government, and was latterly head of the First Minister's political office. He has a 40 year knowledge of the Cardiff West constituency.

Mark became the Assembly Member for Cardiff West in May 2011. He was Chair of the Assembly's Health and Social Care Committee from July 2011 - March 2013 and of the All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee for European funds from July 2011 – March 2013. He was appointed Minister for Health and Social Services in March 2013. He was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in May 2016. Mark was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Finance on 3 November 2017. On 12 December 2018 Mark was appointed First Minister of Wales and became a member of the Privy Council on 13 February 2019. Mark was appointed First Minister on 13 May 2021.

Presenters

Shavanah Taj

Shavanah Taj is Wales TUC's first BME General Secretary. She joined Wales TUC in February 2019, from the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), where she had been the Welsh Secretary since 2013 and served as a National union official since 2002, representing workers across the Welsh, and UK Government departments. Shavanah serves as a trustee on several charity boards and is a Commissioner for the



Constitutional Future for Wales. Shavanah is a passionate campaigner and can often be found contributing speeches at round tables, debates, protest marches and makes regular appearances in press and media on issues such as anti-racism, human rights, women's rights, climate change, fair pay and fair work.

Patience Bentu

Councillor Patience Bentu's background is in Politics and International Development, with focus on Diversity, Inclusion and Representation in policy and Implementation areas. She is the first Nigerian woman to become a elected councillor in Wales, worked in various roles in the Public, Private and Third sectors. She is the Diversity, Inclusion and Antiracism Partner in the office of



the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, where she offers support and advice on the sustainable goal of a more equal Wales for future generations in their work with Public Bodies, Public Service Boards, and other stakeholders. She is a recipient of the 2021 Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Association (EMWWAA) award for Self – Development; and the Rhodri Morgan award for Wales. Councillor Bentu is a proud mother of a teenage son and an ardent lover of music.

Science, Technology & Healthcare and Management & Leadership

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.



Julian Sampson, CBE, DM, FRCP, FLSW, FMedSci is an academic clinical geneticist and previous Head of the Institute of Medical Genetics and Director of the Division of Cancer and Genetics at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University. His work focuses on applications of genetics and genomics to improve the diagnosis and treatment of rare inherited conditions. With support from Welsh Government, he established the Wales Gene Park in 2002 with the aim of "harnessing genetics and genomics to advance research, healthcare, education and innovation" and served as its Director until 2019. He is a medical and scientific advisor to several charities in the UK and USA for 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 has worked for Welsh Government since 1998 in a wide variety of roles from HR, project delivery and through to policy. A strong theme of social justice runs through her career and she is committed to equality and inclusion in every aspect of Welsh life. Her current role focuses on gender and disability policy. She has worked in other areas of equality including mainstreaming, gender, LGBTQ+, and faith.



IG CYMPIL

Arts, culture & Sports and Social & Humanitarian

Professor Radhíka 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 Merrill is the founding Chief Executive of BAWSO, a leading third sector provider for BME women and children facing domestic abuse and all other forms of violence. Mutale has spent many years occupying a number of important roles within the public and voluntary sectors in Wales, including being the first Independent Chair of the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales.



Professor Roiyah Saltus

Professor Roiyah Saltus is a professor of Sociology at University of South Wales. Her research incorporates critical race theory, feminism, community development theory, and critical perspectives in health, social policy and practice. Her abiding research interest is rooted in intersectionality, in particular, the interplay and impact of, gender, age and social class as experienced by racialised and minority ethnic population groups.



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 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.



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 Kapíla Radhakríshan

Dr Kapilan Radhakrishnan, from Chennai, India, came to the UK in 2003 to pursue Master in Advanced Computer Networking from Glasgow Caledonian University. After successful completion, he progressed to complete PhD in the same filed. In 2011, he moved to Swansea to take up a full-time academic role with Swansea Metropolitan University. He is currently working as an Academic Director of Applied Computing portfolio at University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea SA1 campus, is an experienced academic with teaching and research focused on networks and cybersecurity. His work focusses on widening access and improving gender equality in the IT field. He started "Girls into IT" programme to create awareness and promote IT education to secondary school girls



Young Achiever and Violence Against Women Agenda

Professor Sue Denman

Professor 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.



Dr Stella Diamantidi

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 Jackson left Scotland soon after graduating in Modern Languages from the University of Glasgow. Identifying herself as a feminist and a socialist, Alison has had a lifelong commitment to campaigning for peace, equality and social justice. Social work has a long tradition of challenging discrimination and inequality of many kinds, trying hard to expose racism, sexism, ageism and other forms of stigma and oppression. Clearly, the struggle is by no means over, as recent events have borne out.



Advisory Judge

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 too 2007 Minister for Finance, Local Government & Public Services. Since 2007, she has operated as a self-employed consultant, most notably with the "Review of Affordable Housing in Wales".



Selection Committee



Dr Rhian Morgan

Senior Education and Engagement Officer

Wales Gene Park, Institute of Medical Genetics,

Cardiff University



Dr Juping Yu
Senior Research Fellow,
Faculty of Life Sciences and Education
University of South Wales

Science, Technology and Healthcare - Finalists



Bami Adeipekun
Wellbeing and Health Equity Consultant
Inspired to Soar Itd



Dr. Shanti Karupiah
GP working in Swansea
Current Vice Chair of RCGP Wales



Dr Shannu Bhatia

Director of Staff & Student Matters

Senior Clinical Lecturer & Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry



Clinical Professor of Public Health & Psychiatry at Swansea University

Strategic Head of Mental Health Research at Public Health Wales



Dr Sofia Vougioukalou

British Academy Innovation Fellow & Research
Fellow, Y Lab, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff
University



Clinical Reader and Honorary Consultant Nephrologist, Cardiff University, and Cardiff and Vale UHB

Science, Technology and Healthcare <u>Winners</u>

Bami Adeipekun



Professor Ann John

Highly Meritorious Contribution



Dr Shannu Bhatia



Dr Sofia Vougioukalou



Dr. Shanti Karupiah



Dr Soma Meran

Management and Leadership - Finalists



Ayanna Mathurine
Lawyer, Legal Services Department, Welsh Government



Dr Kakali Mitra

Clinical Director Radiology, Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board, North Wales



Emma Wools

South Wales Deputy Police and Crime

Commissioner



Nashim Begum
Senior Policy Advisor, Race Equality, Welsh
Government



Aliya Mohammed
Chief Executive Officer, Race
Equality First



Evelyn James
Project Manager Diverse5050
Campaign, Women's Equality
Network Wales



Dr Salamatu J. Fada
Founder & Trustee of North
Wales Africa Society
Founder and CEO of Tallafi,
UK

Management and Leadership

Winners



Emma Wools



Evelyn James



Nashim Begum

Highly Meritorious Contribution



Dr Kakali Mitra



Ayanna Mathurine



Aliya Mohammed



Dr Salamatu J. Fada

Art, Culture and Sports - Finalists



Jessica Dunrod

Children's author, translator, writer

Director of Ambassadora Translations and Lily
Translates



Dr Leena Menon
GP Partner at Courthouse Medical Centre
Director of Samarpan Nrithyalaya



Tahirah Ali

Student at Cardiff University; School of Healthcare studying ODP (Operating Department Practitioner)



Secretary Interfaith Council for Wales Secretary Hindu Council for Wales



Lal Davies

Award winning film-maker, photographer and poet of South Indian/ Irish heritages

Arts, Culture and Sports

<u>Winners</u>



Jessica Dunrod



Lal Davies

Self Development - Finalists



Mahima Khan

Committee Support Officer and Co-Chair of the
Race Ethnicity And Cultural Heritage network



Sudipta Das

Registry Officer in Cardiff Metropolitan University

Interpreter for Indian languages to support
women from ethnic minorities



Reena Patel
Headteacher at Kitchener Primary School



Jorna Ali
Family Link Support Worker, Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team



Latifa Al Najar Syrian Dinner Project



Ramatoulie Manneh
Finance Manager, BAWSO

Self Development

<u>Winners</u>



Reena Patel



Jorna Ali



Ramatoulie Manneh

Business - Finalists



Rifhat Qureshi

Business and Personal Development Coach for Ethnic Minority Businesses



Sherrie Woolf
Senior Director of Finance and HR, Airflo Fishing
Products Limited



Bhumikaben Yogeshkumar Chodavadiya
Director of byc Impex UK Ltd
Online Business Manager of SG hair & beauty Ltd

Business

<u>Winners</u>



Rifhat Qureshi

Highly Meritorious Contribution



Sherrie Woolf

Social and Humanitarian - Finalists



Aminat Ayodele
Senior Project Support Officer, Welsh Ambulance
Services NHS Trust



Diana Oleksiuk
Learning Coach at ACT Training Job Growth
Wales+



Dr Bnar Talabani MBE
Wellcome Trust Clinician
Scientist Training Fellow, Cardiff Univeristy



Lella Nouri
Associate Professor of Criminology, Swansea
University



Joys Njini
Equal Power Equal Voice Mentoring Programme
Manager, Women Equality Network Wales



Lettie Chimbi
Founder and Director of Chomuzangari Women's
Cooperative

Social and Humanitarian - Finalists



Tina Dando
IT Coordinator and Year 5 class teacher



Neelufur Adam
Founder and CEO of Queen Niche Consultancy



Samia Egeh
Co-Founder of United2Change—Chairperson



Yen Yen Lai

Older People Team Lead, Chinese in Wales Association

Social and Humanitarian

<u>Winners</u>



Dr Bnar Talabani MBE



Lella Nouri

Highly Meritorious Contribution



Neelufur Adam



Samía Egeh

Young Achiever - Finalists



Simran Farzana Sosi
A levels student at Cathays High School



Kaavya Sudheer
Law student at Exeter University



Fiona Rae Aclan Student at LSE Founder of The Fusion Creative Lab



Ellora Mukherjee Economics Student at Warwick University



Setareh Azizi Sixth Form Student, Fitzalan High School



Ritija Biswas Student at Howells School



Kendra-Jean Nwamadi Medical Student and Co-Founder of the Gwella Project



Shivangi Das Year 8 Student

Young Achiever

<u>Winners</u>



Ritija Biswas Student at Howells School



Economics Student at Warwick University



Setareh Azizi Sixth Form Student, Fitzalan High School

Violence Against Women Agenda - Finalists



Edna Sackeyfio
Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
BAWSO



Helida Ramogi
Head of Quality Assurance and Compliance
BAWSO



Zaira Munsif
Loyalty Manager Cardiff & the Vale
BAWSO

Violence Against Women Agenda

<u>Winners</u>



Edna Sackeyfio



Helida Ramogi



Zaira Munsif

Lifetime Achievement - Winners

Usha Ladwa-Thomas

Usha currently works part-time at the Welsh Government. She is also a Visiting Fellow at Cardiff University Social Science Research Park (SPARK). She juggles these commitments with freelance coaching and consultancy work and as an advisor for Caplor Horizons, an organisation providing capacity development opportunities to NGOs in Africa and India.



Professor Charlotte Williams

BA, MA and PhD Bangor University. Charlotte has had an extremely varied and highly impactful career: Housing Officer and Social Worker in Gwynedd; lecturer/ senior lecturer, Bangor University; senior lecturer / professor and Head of School, Keele University; Professor and Associate Dean, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.



Genevieve Naomi Dinnall

Lady Genevieve Dinnall lives in Cardiff, is Married to Bishop Lanceford Dinnall, and has 3 stepchildren. She is an ENT Staff Nurse, at the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport, Wales. A strong Christian, Lady Genevieve and Bishop Lanceford see to the spiritual, and emotional needs of the people of Wales.



Lifetime Achievement - Winners

Bernadette Davies

Lawyer, TEDx Speaker, Author, Diversity & Entrepreneurship Leader, Bernie, Mentors, Coaches, and Publishes! Multi-awardee, Bernie, was Chair of the Neath Chamber of Trade. Ambassador, Board Member, Advisor, Welsh Government Coach, Chief Executive and Founder, Keynote speaker at the UN, House of Lords, Royal Society, Excel Arena and more!



Tahmina Khan

Tahmina is a registered Social Worker with the Care Council and worked in various fields in Social Work. She has been hugely involved in voluntary work within the BAME communities including management role since 1987 and has been an impactful champion challenging discrimination and equalities for BAME communities across Wales.



Roma Taylor

Roma Taylor is a mother of 7, grandmother of 25 and greatgrandmother to 18 children. Despite this, wherever there is a need, Roma is helping, giving her life to charity, church and community work. At 79, she is still pushing boundaries and making a difference in her community.



Entertainment

SAMYOG

By Dr Santosh Nair, Dr Suchitra Rajan, Dr Leena Menon, Ann Sunny Poulose, Malavika Babu

Samarpan Nrithyalaya is delighted to present SAMYOG, a collab-

orative dance of different styles. It is our very humble attempt to showcase different dance styles from India, Far east and Africa. It is a fusion of Bharathanatyam, Kathak, classical dance styles from India, an Oriental dance from the Far East and an African drum based dance. The dancers are trained in Indian classical dance and make NO claim to have trained in the other dance styles. So please accept our humble apology if we have erred!



SOMALI DANCE

By Zainab, Fatima and Nagad

Zainab Mattan (15 yrs) and Fatima Sheikh (14 yrs) are performing traditional Somali dance, with Nagad on the drums. The dance is a traditional dance, it is about the nature and life in countryside during harvest.

AFRICAN DANCE

By Aida

Aida has an infectious energy with an enigmatic personality and freely shares her knowledge, skill and joviality without holding back. Born in Ouakam village; home of the Lebou ethnic group of Senegal, Aida started dancing Sabar at a very young age. Together with other artists, they formed the group 'Jappo' meaning 'together' in Ouakam. From this group, Aida was scouted by Landing Mane who became her mentor and teacher in 1997. She added djembe dancing to her repertoire and went on to join Ballet Africain de Sanghoma which led to a tour with Daara-j in Senegal and abroad. In 2009 Aida joined Bakalama de Thionkessyl and had the opportunity to teach Sabar and Djembe dance at the American school at the U.S Embassy in Senegal. In addition, Aida has carried out workshops in various schools and venues and holds regular weekly classes in London.





Patrons

Julie Morgan MS Deputy Minister for Health and Services
Jane Hutt MS Minister for Social Justice

EMWWAA Management Committee

Meena Upadhyaya OBE, Vimla Patel MBE, Sivanes Sivapalan, Chetna Sinha, Nisha Nair, Shehla Khan, Tania Ghafari, Temmy Woolston, Suzanne Smart, Maria Lazarou

We are grateful to the following for their support:

Ayesha Hameed

Priyanka Juneja

Debanjali Bhattacharjee

Steve Gomes

Andy Mousoulou

Helen, Andrew and Adan from Drake

Armed Forces Fanfare Team

BBC Wales

Wales Online

Natasha Hirst

City Hall Staff

Cardiff University

All volunteers

Some proceeds from this ceremony will go to Nerve Tumours UK: 1078790.

Facebook: @EMWWAA Twitter: @EMWWAA Instagram: @EMWWAA Charity no: 1163999

2023 PICTURES



















































