



Welsh Asian Woman Achievement Award

Celebrating the achievement of Asian Women living in Wales

SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

Message from Professor Meena Upadhyaya Founder and Chairperson of the Award



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Welcome to the first WAWAA newsletter - WAWAA awards 2015

WAWAA was established to motivate and increase self esteem of Asian women and girls. Indeed, its core aim is to create a network of Asian women across

Wales that provides beacons of inspiration for current and upcoming generations of women and girls. I am greatly encouraged to see just how much our "Asian family" has grown since we first started the Award scheme in 2011. It has now widened to include women and girls from no less than forty six Asian countries. Building on our success seems important, and so in future years, our intention is to open the award to all Black and Minority Ethnic women and girls (BAME). We are therefore delighted to announce that the next award ceremony will be called the Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Award. (EMWWAA).

This year we have also introduced two more WAWAA award categories including Young Achiever Award (16-21year) and Violence Against Women Agenda, both you will agree are worthy categories. As in previous years the judges were faced with the welcomed dilemma of making the final selection as we had many, very high calibre nominations from all walks of life. The judges were very impressed with the commitment, passion and

drive of all the finalists, so well done and our congratulations to you all. Moved by the stories of the previous winners, at the last WAWAA ceremony the judges suggested that their amazing stories should be recorded and published. We are delighted that the inspiring stories of eighteen winners from the previous two award ceremonies have now been profiled in a book entitled "her" The Welsh noun "her", meaning "challenge" captures the spirit of this book highlighting the challenges faced by these women and how they managed to overcome them. We thank Dr Cathy Sampson who kindly narrated the book for us, and it was launched at the award ceremony in April this year.

We were privileged to have Dame Rosemary Butler, the presiding officer of the Welsh Government Assembly as our chief guest at the WAWAA award ceremony in April. I am sincerely grateful to all our sponsors and supporters, with the Cardiff University Vice-Chancellor's office who were our main sponsor. I also wish to thank the programme presenters as well as the hard-working members of our selection and judging panels. I am as ever extremely grateful to the WAWAA Management Committee and of course, a very big thank you to all the nominators and the applicants for the WAWAA Awards. My sincere thanks to everyone who came along to support this very worthwhile event.

Best wishes

Meena



WAWAA Award Presenters

Mr 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 WAWAA awards are:

Science, Technology and Medicine :

Prof Julian Sampson and Lord Mayor Councillor Margaret Jones

Management and Leadership Award: Sue Essex, Prof Sheila Hunt

Arts :

Prof Sue Denman and Jenny Rathbone AM

Social and Humanitarian:

Kate Bennett , Judith Woodman, Baroness Anita Gale, Chris Andrews

Business :

Baroness Jenny Randerson, Deputy Lord Lt Raj Aggarwal OBE

Self-Development :

Prof Jean White, Elined Parrott AM,

Young Achiever:

Norma Jarboe OBE, Julie Rogers

Violence Against Women Agenda: Prof Chris Weedon, Judge Ray Singh

WAWAA Lifetime Achievement Awards: Dame Rosemary Butler AM, Jane Hutt AM, Julie Morgan AM

Acknowledgement: Late Savitaben Gandalbhair Patel, presented by Julie Morgan AM



The WAWAA Judging Panel

Science, Technology, medicine and Management & Leadership

Professor Julian Sampson

Professor Julian Sampson is a medical geneticist at Cardiff University and an Honorary Consultant with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. He undertakes research into inherited diseases and provides NHS services for patients with inherited diseases in Cardiff and in west Wales. He is a Director of the School of Medicine's Institute of Cancer and Genetics and is based at the Institute of Medical Genetics that conducts interdisciplinary research into the genetic basis of disease and trains current and future health practitioners to diagnose and treat people affected by genetic diseases. Professor Sampson is also Director of the Wales Gene Park that is funded by the Welsh Government's National Institute of Social and Health Care Research and he is Chairman of the Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee that advises the Minister and Welsh Government on issues relating to science and technology in the NHS.

Professor Sheila Hunt

Until December 2014, Professor Sheila Hunt was the Dean and Head of the School of Health Care Sciences at Cardiff University. She now runs Sheila Hunt Associates, a Management Consultant company. Professor Hunt promotes equality and value diversity in all her activities. She trained as a nurse, a midwife and as a teacher in Wales and has subsequently worked in the NHS and in Universities in England and Scotland. She is a midwife at heart, a nurse, an academic, an experienced educator and a leader. Her research has focussed on poverty, domestic abuse and multiple deprivation. Sheila has served as appointed and elected member of national and international statutory committees.

Mrs Sue Essex

Sue was an Assembly Member for the Cardiff North Constituency from 1999 - 2007. She was appointed as Minister for Environment, Planning and Transport in the first term and then Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services in the second term. Prior to joining the Assembly she was a Councillor for Riverside in Cardiff for sixteen years, becoming the first woman leader of Cardiff City Council. Since standing down from the Assembly she has led a team reviewing affordable housing in Wales and also helped develop a post-graduate leadership course for Wales in conjunction with UWIC and Bangor University

Arts & Culture and Social & Humanitarian

Mrs Julie Morgan AM

Julie has been an AM since 2011. Prior to serving in the Welsh Assembly, she was an MP. During her time in the House of Commons, she was a member of the Justice, Select Committee as well as Welsh Affairs and Public Administration Select Committees, of the Welsh Group of Labour MPs and of the Parliamentary Labour Party's Women's Group. She presented three Private Member's Bills - one banning smoking in public places, one granting votes to 16 year olds, and most recently, one on preventing sunbeds being used by under-18 year olds, with this Bill becoming a law in 2010. Julie was a "member of the Unite union and was a founder member of the Welsh Refugee Council. She was also a founder member of the Women's Arts Association. She is a patron of the Touch Trust and Advocacy Matters, a trustee of Life for African Mothers, Vice President of George Thomas Hospice and Patron of the Welsh Asian women Achievement Awards (WAWAA).



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.

Kate Bennett

Kate was appointed as the National Director for Wales for the new Equality and Human Rights Commission in September 2007. Kate had previously been the Director of the Equal Opportunities Commission in Wales, a post she had held since 1999. Throughout her career Kate has been actively involved in equalities work. Prior to the EOC, Kate was a full time trade union official, community campaign worker and a research journalist.

Kate believes collaboration, partnership working and harnessing everybody's skills and ideas will be the key to achieving change in society.

Professor Chris Weedon

Chris Weedon is the chair of the Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory at the University of Cardiff and for the past two decades her work has engaged with cultural theories of feminism, class and race.

Business and Self Development**Professor Terry Threadgold**

Terry Threadgold is 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 (2007-12) and during this period she also acted as Head of the Cardiff School of English, Communication, and Philosophy and Head of the Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion. Terry has published widely in the areas of post-structuralist feminist discourse analysis, performance studies, feminist legal studies and race, identity and nation in contexts of globalisation. 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.

Christine Andrews

Christine attended Cardiff University, as a mature student, where she obtained a BSc (Econ) Hons degree in Social and Economic Studies, and a Certificate of Qualification in Social Work. She was resident in Nepal, as a VSO volunteer. For part of this time was attached to save the Children Fund working with a team of Nepali health workers on a community project to promote maternal and child health. The project involved recruiting, training and supporting community health volunteers from among village women. In 1988, She returned to Gwent Probation Service, and was promoted to Team Manager in 1993. She retired in 2008. During her career in the Probation Service, she covered a broad spectrum of work, including the delivery of group work, staff recruitment and training, and the management of high risk and dangerous offenders. For a couple of years post retirement, She was an NVQ Level 3 Assessor for the Probation Service.



Norma Jarboe OBE

Norma is the founder and Director of Women Count. She was formerly Director of Opportunity Now, the leading employer membership organisation in the UK to advance women in the workplace and has many years of experience in women's development and diversity

Young Achievers And Violence Against Women***DR E Joan Williams***

Dr Joan Williams was a 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 Hypercholesterolaemia 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 Dianne Edwards

Dianne has been a lecturer and researcher in Cardiff University for forty years, latterly becoming Head of the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, where she now concentrates on palaeontological research. Her outside interests include botanic gardens, opera, conservation and furthering the careers of young people. In May 2013, she became the second only woman to be made President of the Linnean Society of London, the oldest active national history society in the world.

Julie Rogers

Julie is an experienced HR professional whose diverse portfolio stretches across Welsh Government including a range of project and change management, policy development, corporate finance and workforce roles. Julie has a long association with the Department of Health and Social Services, having held a variety of positions including Senior HR Business Partner, Head of Policy for Adult Social Care and until September 2013 was the Welsh Government lead for Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults. Julie is the Director of Workforce and Organisational Development for NHS Wales. She took up her role in April 2014, having previously played a leading role in the delivery of 'Sustainable Social Services for Wales' and as the senior responsible officer for the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014



The WAWAA Winners

Science Technology and Medicine



Prof Alka Ahuja

Alka Ahuja is Visiting Professor at University of South Wales and Lead Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist for the Tertiary Neurodevelopmental service in ABUHB. She is chair of the Child & Adolescent Faculty of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Wales and a proud mother of Saiba and Ansh.

Management and Leadership



Usha Ladwa-Thomas

Usha is passionate about giving a voice to those who do not have enough power. As an experienced change agent she works collaboratively to co-produce solutions that increase the resilience and sustainability of individuals and communities. Usha also delivers leadership training and coaching in Wales, and in Africa, and contributes to her local community by being a magistrate.

Social and Humanitarian



Sonia Khoury

Sonia is a qualified GP from Syria. A woman who needed to start her life as a refugee in the UK with her young daughter. Sonia speaks about her experience, challenges faced and her intention to play a positive role in the UK.



Basma Ihabasheh

Basma is the Chair of The Rainbow Group based within the Vale of Glamorgan. She became involved in voluntary work to build her confidence and to help others. Her passion and the determination to overcome the challenges in life has helped her to become an inspiration for all women.

Arts and Culture



Hiral Narbad Shah

Hiral Narbad Shah is a young Chiropractic student who has devoted much of her life to exploring her passion for healthcare and the Asian arts. Hiral regularly volunteers her talents within local communities and charities, thus becoming a distinguished dancer and pageant title holder in Wales.



Business



Yasmin Sarwar

From a small tutorial centre to a most successful international college in the UK boasting 42 different nationalities, Yasmin together with her husband has created and developed the best independent college by A level results in the UK beating the likes

Self Development



Tamassree Mukhopadhyay

Mrs Tamassree Mukhopadhyay was born in West Bengal, India..She believes in making small but consistent improvements in the lives of the people she knows. She had drawn her inspiration from Mother Teresa. Tamassree started volunteering in the Missionaries of Charities at the age of 15. Throughout her life she has been working for various social causes. She has set up a Self-Help group for destitute women called KIRAN.

Young Achievers



Aziza Khan

Azizah is a Welsh student, and is a proud believer in helping provide opportunities for young girls across Cardiff, particularly from ethnic minority backgrounds. She has directed a film exhibition, represented Wales in a youth exchange and is part of the first all-girls group in Wales to have completed their DofE awards.

Violence Against Women Agenda



Jasmin Ahmed

Jasmin works at Bawso as an Independent Domestic Sexual Violence Advocate (IDSVVA) supporting high risk victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, force marriages and honour base violence. She is also the Human Trafficking Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Coordinator for Cardiff and Vale.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr Jasbir Mahapatra

Dr Mahapatra obtained her medical degree and a diploma in Anaesthesia from India. After a long association in Anaesthesia in the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, she decided to move to General Practice so that she could have direct contact with patients as she wanted to make a difference to people's life. After training as a GP she took responsibility of a single handed practice and provided excellent care to her patients and managed to get an outstanding award for her practice.



Poranee James

Prior to coming to Wales, Poranee worked at the United Nations in Bangkok, Poranee worked in the Police Department from 1976-1984, she then joined Thompson Foundation in Cardiff. She has a long record of helping others and speaking out for others when this is needed





Wai Fong Lee

In 1975, at the tender age of 13, Wai Fong Lee moved across the world with her family to the UK from Hong Kong to run a catering business. She has since devoted herself as a community leader, a loving wife, mother, and more recently, grandmother. She was awarded MBE for her outstanding contributions to the Chinese community.

Acknowledgement

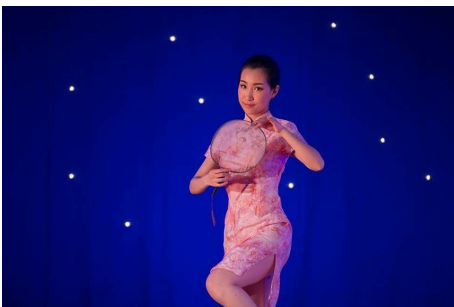


Late Savitaben Gandalbhair Patel

Savitaben provided voluntary service to the Community in Cardiff for 40 years. Even at her age, when most others would be long retired, she continued to provide voluntary service despite her ill health. She was the “mother figure” to many of the younger generation and a true friend to many older people. Known as “Iconic Masi” (Masi means Aunty), and Mother India of Gujarati community, Savitaben is greatly missed by the Hindu community in Cardiff.

PHOTO GALLERY – WAWAA AWRDS 2015





We thank the following

We thank the following for sponsorship

for sponsorship



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For more information on any of the features in this newsletter and details on how you can join WAWAA please contact Prof Meena Upadhyaya (Upadhyaya@cardiff.ac.uk) or visit the website www.welshasianwomenaward.org.uk

