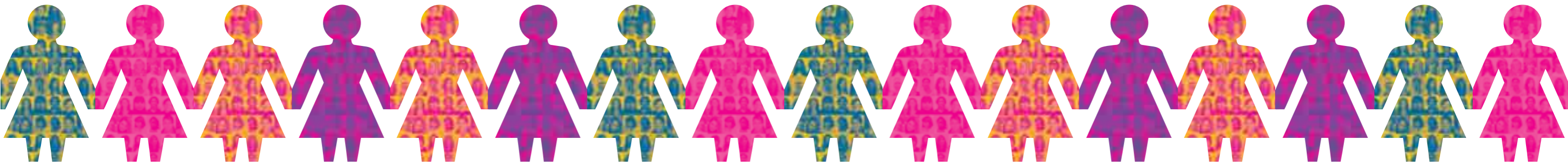




Women Leading Global Change



Introduction to the Women Leading Global Change Conference 2007

This conference has grown out of a collaboration between six girls' schools in London that work together in a State-Independent School Partnership. These schools are: Mulberry School for Girls, City of London School for Girls, Central Foundation Girls' School, Channing School for Girls, the Skinners' Company's School for Girls and Highbury Fields. The conference has been designed and organised by pupils of those schools.

Leadership requires a range of qualities, skills and dispositions which can be acquired through education. The conference is an education event which focuses on the leadership of women in a global context. It celebrates the achievements of women in leadership. It raises awareness of the diverse challenges in different countries that women have faced, providing a truly international perspective on leadership issues. It focuses on the importance of individual and collective action to achieve positive change.

A previous conference for our pupils took place in November 2005 at the Cabot Hall. It was called 'New Directions' and it offered a baton to a younger generation of women. These young women have taken up this baton and the result of their work over eighteen months can be seen today in the variety of ways in which they have addressed the theme of global leadership by women.

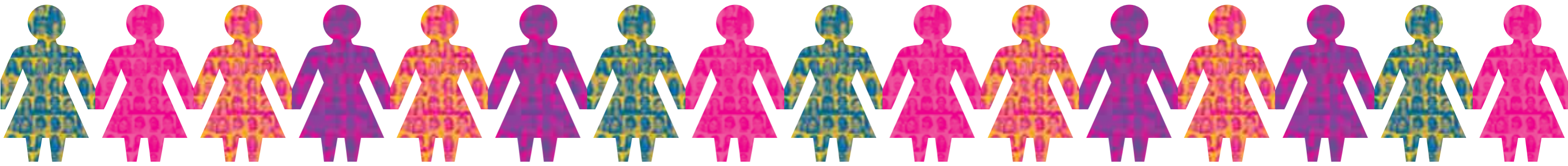
On behalf of the headteachers of all six schools, I thank our conference speakers, conference planning team and supporters for their time – and in particular, I thank our sponsors for their financial support: the governors of Mulberry School for Girls, the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families), Unilever, Lloyds TSB and Morgan Stanley. Without this support, this conference could not have taken place.

However, most importantly, I would like to thank the pupils of all six schools who have worked so hard to bring this conference about. You continue to inspire us all and I hope one day to see you taking your rightful places with the women we are celebrating today.

Ms. Vanessa Ogden,
Headteacher of Mulberry School for Girls

Conference Programme

9.00am	Arrival and registration. <i>Tea and coffee in the Pickwick Room.</i>
9.25am	Welcome – Comperes from Mulberry School for Girls Seated in the Churchill Auditorium for pre-conference announcements – e.g. health and safety.
9.30am	Keynote speaker – 'Women Leading Global Change'. Baroness Cox , deputy speaker of the House of Lords
9.50am	Ten Minute Presentations by: Jo Wilding – barrister and Nobel Prize nominee in 2005 as a member of the '1000 Peacewomen' nominated for peace-making activities on 'Women working for world peace' Bience Gawanas – human rights barrister and Commissioner of Social Affairs at the African Commission on 'Women leading political change' Samira Ahmed – Channel 4 News Presenter on 'Women and leadership in the media and wider world' Emily Cummins – Ethical Inventor and winner of the Women of the Future Award for Technology in 2006 at 19 years old on 'Women changing the environment' Tracey Hahn – MD of Leadership and Talent Management at Merrill Lynch UK on 'Women leading change in the workforce'
10.40am	Group discussion to prepare for panel questions.
10.50am	Panel discussion with the speakers.
11.20am	<i>Tea and coffee in the Pickwick Room.</i>
11.40am	Group discussion activity.
12.00pm	Student presentations from the stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political voice – Otegha Uwagba, City of London School for Girls • Environmental change – Razia Nizamuddin, Central Foundation Girls' School • Leadership in the workplace – Nazaha Soobhany, Skinners' Company School for Girls • World peace – Victoria Lawson, Channing School for Girls • AIDs / HIV and global action – Highbury Fields School • The representation of women – Farzana Khanom, Mulberry School for Girls
12.30pm	'Changing Lives' Film – by the East London Consortium with the Women's Library, London Metropolitan University.
1.00pm	<i>Lunch break in the Pickwick Room.</i>



1.45pm	Opening of afternoon of the conference – Dr. Masias Cowper – Nelson Mandela Health and Human Rights Award 2004, Vice-Chair of African HIV Policy Network, South African Voices for AIDS on 'Women speaking out for social change'
2.00pm	Student drama performance
2.20pm	Delegate work on dialogue mats – themed tasks – 'My voice – making it count' and 'Leading positive change'
3.00pm	Speaker: Meena Patel – Joint Co-Ordinator of the Southall Black Sisters on 'Women challenging human rights issues'
3.25pm	Speaker: Dr. Katherine Rake – Director of the Fawcett Society on 'Women leading global change'
3.50pm	Conference outcomes – delegates fill in star cards with 'One important thing I have learned', 'One hope for the future' and 'One action I will take for positive change'
4.10pm	Performance: Tara Kamangar – International concert pianist and finalist in the Arts and Culture Award at the Asian Women of Achievement Awards 2007 plays live while an image presentation is made of women's leadership in a global context
4.20pm	Conference close – Leisha Fullick – Pro-Director for London, Institute of Education, London University

The Conference Logo

The conference programme has been drawn together to reflect the leadership of women in all its diversity across the globe. The logo of the conference designed by pupils is the 'Tree of 1000 Stars', a Japanese Flowering Cherry with clusters of white flowers that look like stars. Trees are symbolic of flourishing and global ecological sustainability. The 1000 stars, like the 1000 Peacewomen nominated together for the Nobel Prize in 2005, represent the multitude of women who have contributed to making the world a better place through their leadership.

Pupils will write the conference outcomes – what they have learned and their hopes for the future – on star shaped cards to hang them on the tabletop trees that have been made by pupils out of recycled materials. There will be over 1000 stars hung up at the end of the conference. These trees will become our own 'Trees of 1000 Stars' – our own multitude of voices committed to leading positive social change.

The Conference Speakers

Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords

The Baroness Cox of Queensbury



Baroness (Caroline) Cox was created a Life Peer in 1982 and has been a deputy speaker of the House of Lords since 1985. She was Founder Chancellor of Bournemouth University 1991-2001 and is a Vice President of the Royal College of Nursing. She is heavily involved with international humanitarian work and is Chief Executive of HART [Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust]. She also serves as non-executive director and trustee for a number of other organisations.

Lady Cox has been honoured in many countries by governments, universities and medical schools. She has received the Commander Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and the Wilberforce Award for her humanitarian work and in March 2005 she was honoured by the All India Christian Council to receive the International Mother Teresa Award.

Baroness Cox's work in the field of humanitarian aid has taken her on many missions to conflict zones across the world. She has also been instrumental in helping to change the former Soviet Union policies for orphaned and abandoned children from institutions to foster family care. She has been appointed as Special Representative for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Freedom of Religion Panel.



Nobel Prize Nominee 2005 as a member of the '1000 Peacewomen' nominated for peace-making activities

Jo Wilding

Jo Wilding is 33, a barrister, writer, activist, mother and step mother. Following study for a Masters degree, she became involved with environmental protests and later with campaigns against nuclear weapons and the sanctions against Iraq. To her, these are not separate issues but are all assaults on social justice, all sharing similar roots.

Jo first went to Iraq to break the economic sanctions in August 2001. She went back in February 2003, a month before the "Shock and Awe" campaign started. She kept a weblog, telling the stories people told on the streets, in homes, shops and taxis. When the war began she documented civilian casualties by conducting interviews in hospitals and bomb sites.

She returned to Iraq in November 2003, setting up solidarity links between groups in Iraq and in the UK and setting up a small circus which worked with traumatised

children in squatter camps, shelters, orphanages and schools. During the first major siege of Fallujah, she helped take medical supplies into the city and escort civilian ambulances coming under fire from US forces.

Out of those times in Iraq came a film documentary, "A Letter to the Prime Minister", made by Julia Guest, which won the Al Jazeera gold award for best overseas documentary, a book, "Don't Shoot The Clowns" and a play, "Fallujah", written and directed by Jonathan Holmes.

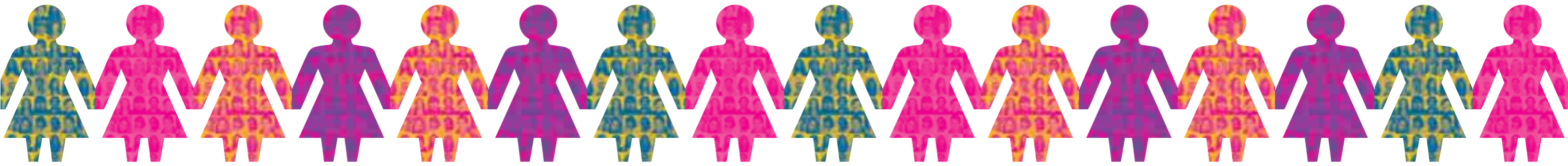
Barrister and Commissioner for Social Affairs, the African Commission

Advocate Bience Gawanas

Advocate Gawanas was politically active in Namibia's national liberation movement, SWAPO, since her schooldays and was expelled from the University of Western Cape, RSA, during student boycotts in 1976. During 1977, she went into exile where she remained (Angola, Zambia, Cuba and UK) for 12 years, returning home during Namibia's transition to independence in 1989. During her time in exile, she was a teacher and stayed in SWAPO refugee camps for many years. She was a political activist and a speaker in various international forums. She was a founder member of the Lawyers against Apartheid in the UK and was involved in anti-apartheid activities in several countries.

After her return to Namibia, in 1996 she became the Ombudswoman, a constitutional post monitoring good performance in public administration, human rights and corruption and environmental practices. The Office of the Ombudsman in Namibia is now a model for several African countries. Advocate Gawanas is a founder of the revitalized African Ombudsman Association. As a member of the Law Reform and Development Commission, she has been instrumental in the drafting and enactment of laws which guarantee gender equality and provide protection to rape victims and abused women and children.

Advocate Gawanas speaks internationally on human rights, women, law, gender, governance, and development. She has also authored works on these same issues in various journals as well as on personal issues such as pain and reconciliation. Advocate Gawanas was elected for a four-year term as the Commissioner for Social Affairs at the African Union from 2003 until 2007. She was also nominated for the 2007 US Secretary of State First Annual Award for International Women of Courage.



News Correspondent and Presenter

Samira Ahmed

Samira is a presenter and correspondent for Channel 4 News. Born and bred in south London, she was educated at Wimbledon High School, St Edmund Hall, Oxford and City University. She started her career as a graduate News Trainee at the BBC in 1990. Her early assignments as a BBC reporter including covering IRA bomb attacks and Princess Diana's first public engagements after her divorce. She went on to work as News Correspondent and presenter for BBC News, BBC World and Newsnight, and as a presenter and political correspondent at Deutsche Welle TV, in Berlin.

Over her career Samira has reported extensively on crime, terrorism and the arts and was BBC Los Angeles correspondent from 1996-7, where she covered the civil trial of OJ Simpson. For her Channel 4 documentary series, "Islam Unveiled" (2004) she travelled across the world to explore the status of Muslim women and ask whether you can really be a feminist and a Muslim.

She has lectured on terrorism, Islamic radicalism and feminism at the London School of Economics, Sheffield Hallam University and at the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Samira, who read English at Oxford, has chaired a discussion on Shakespeare and censorship for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon. She speaks Hindi/Urdu and German.

Ethical Inventor and Entrepreneur, Winner of the 'Women of the Future Award' for Technology 2006

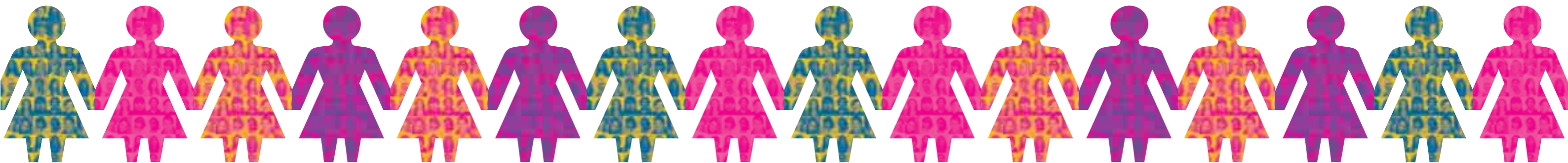
Emily Cummins

Emily Cummins is a 20 year old ethical inventor and entrepreneur studying Management and Sustainability at Leeds University. Her latest invention is a sustainable fridge, which runs without the need for electricity. Emily developed it during her self-funded gap year in Africa, where she hopes it will make a massive contribution to improving medical services – its primary purpose is to be used to transport and store temperature-sensitive drugs. Most recently Emily was named the Technology Woman of the Future 2006 and the British Female Innovator of the Year for 2007.

Emily has just returned from a second trip to Africa where she spent a month performing further testing and research. Currently she is considering setting up a developmental charity for benefit to young women from both the developing and developed world and is also creating a booklet which will be used to inspire women to be creative.

Emily is also an ambassador for The Women of Achievement and the Girls Make Your Mark Campaigns.





Nelson Mandela Health and Human Rights Award 2004
Vice-Chair of the African HIV Policy Network

Dr. Masias Cowper

Mercy was born Masias Elizabeth Makhalemele on 9th September 1970. Mercy is a real township girl, inspired by the spirit of her ancestors along with her cultural inheritance. She is well motivated, she originates from the Basotho tribe who are known as **“Mankanyane a nkwe e tala”** which means green tiger that does not harm nor fear human.

Mercy spoke publicly for the first time in 1993, the same year that she was diagnosed as HIV positive. This was at the University of the Witwatersrand, hosted by the AIDS Consortium at its first conference on Legal Rights and AIDS. She was awarded with an Honorary Masters Degree in recognition of her work. She was the first woman to speak at the South African National Parliament in 1995, a year after Nelson Mandela's inauguration. She has addressed many world conferences and conventions on AIDS and HIV, arguing for the development of new policies and laws to address HIV and AIDS.

Mercy has received various awards for her work, both in South Africa and from many organisations worldwide. The United Nation's Secretary General Kofi Annan gave her special

recognition during the UN General Assembly on HIV and AIDS 2000, for her brave stand in breaking the silence and taboos to fight for the rights of individuals infected with HIV. On the 6th July 2004, she became the first black woman living, well and healthy with HIV, to receive **“The Nelson Mandela Health and Human Rights Award”** for the continued commitment and dedication to serve the world on issues related to Health and Human Rights. In April 2005 Dr. Cowper was recognized as a Senior Research Fellow by The Health Inequality Program, Duke University in North Carolina.

Dr Cowper has been elected to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the African HIV Policy Network (AHPN), based in London.

Director of the Fawcett Society

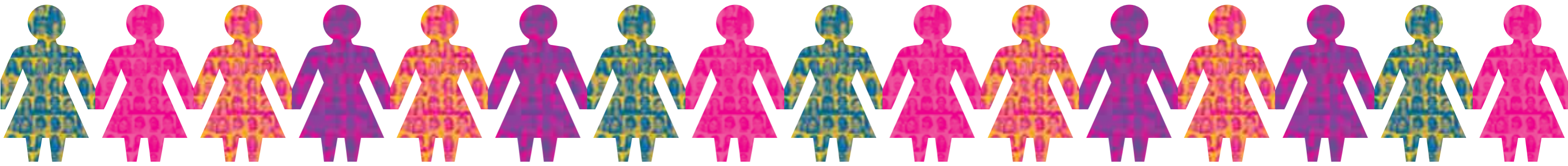
Dr. Katherine Rake

Dr. Katherine Rake is Director of the Fawcett Society. She is one of the UK's leading specialists in gender and social policy.

Under her leadership, the Fawcett Society runs passionate, informed campaigns for fair pay and pensions for women, fair representation of women in positions of power and better treatment of women victims and defendants in the criminal justice system.

Katherine has advised the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, HM Treasury and other Government departments on gender and social policy. She was previously Lecturer in Social Policy at the LSE and secondee to the Women's Unit, Cabinet Office where she edited a ground-breaking report on women's lifetime incomes.





International Concert Pianist

Tara Kamangar

After graduating as valedictorian of her high school class, Tara attended Harvard University, receiving a BA with Honours in Anthropology, with a focus on Middle Eastern Music. While at Harvard, she continued her piano studies with Victor Rosenbaum, Professor of Piano at the New England Conservatory, and served as President of both the 300+-member Piano Society and the Persian Society. She performed in solo and chamber recitals across campus, broadcast over WHRB 95.3FM and Voice of America's Persian language service, and formed a piano-violin duo with the Concertmistress of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra. Tara also performed throughout Boston as the pianist and violinist for the Iranian musical group "Hafez Ensemble.

Tara is currently completing postgraduate studies in piano performance at London's Royal Academy of Music with Patsy Toh (Premier Prix, Paris Conservatory), as a recipient of the Kathleen Bayfield scholarship. Her other interests include film scoring and song writing.

Tara's up-and-coming performances for 2007-08 include solo recitals in London's Cadogan Hall and David Josefowitz Recital Hall and Washington DC's National Gallery of Art, and a performance at the Asian

Women of Achievement Awards in London (for which she was a finalist in the "Arts and Culture" category). She will perform Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, and give the U.S. premiere of Aminollah Hossein's Second Piano Concerto, as a soloist with the Oakland Symphony, under the baton of Maestro Michael Morgan. She has also been invited by Maestro Loris Tjeknavorian (conductor of the Armenian Philharmonic for a decade) to perform with his orchestra in Tehran.

Joint Co-Ordinator of the Southall Black Sisters

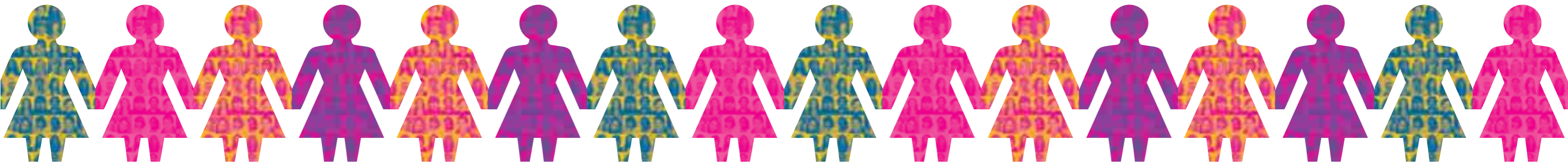
Meena Patel

Southall Black Sisters is a Black (Asian, African, Caribbean) women's organization founded in 1979. They run a resource centre providing information, advice, advocacy, counseling and support to Black women and children escaping violence and abuse.

Meena Patel joined Southall Black Sisters as an administrator/caseworker in 1987, becoming a joint co-ordinator in 1999. She has worked for SBS for 20 years; her work includes campaigning and advocacy work with women and children experiencing domestic

violence particularly for black and minority women. She has developed the organisations's work in child support, mental health and counseling for women who have faced domestic violence.





MD of Leadership and Talent Management
at Merrill Lynch, UK

Tracey Hahn

Tracey Hahn is Head of HR (Leadership and Talent Management) at Merrill Lynch with overall responsibility for the LTM function across the region, Europe Middle East and Africa.

Merrill Lynch has approx 7,000 employees in the EMEA Region operating across three businesses; Global Markets, Investment Banking and Global Private Client.

From 2002 to June 2005, Tracey was Head of HR for the Merrill Lynch Global Debt Markets business based in New York. She moved from London to New York in 2001 to serve as Head of HR for the Chief Financial

Office. Previously, she was head of HR for the Merrill Lynch & Co. Support organizations across EMEA. She joined Merrill Lynch in 1996 as HR Manager for the Operations, Systems and Technology group in EMEA.

Previously Tracey held a number of HR positions in telecommunications, working for Cable & Wireless plc and has a Masters in Strategic Human Resource Development.

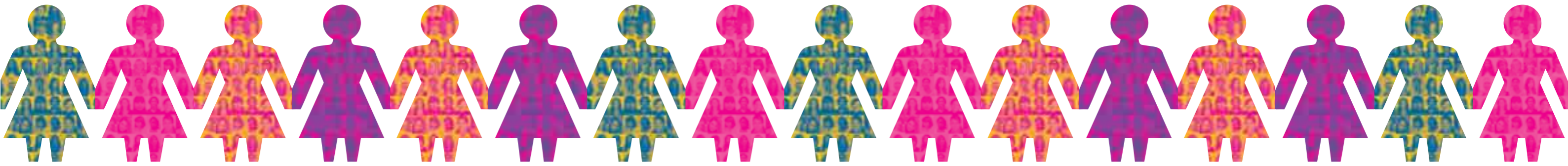
Pro-Director for London, Institute of Education,
London University

Leisha Fullick

Leisha Fullick has over 30 years of experience in London education. Ms. Fullick started work for the Inner London Education Authority as a community education worker in the 1970's. She became an inspector for further and adult education.

Ms. Fullick was director of education for Lewisham council and chief executive of Islington. She is now based at the London University Institute of Education at the London Centre for Leadership in Learning. She is a member of the senior leadership team at the Institute, being Pro-Director for London.

Ms. Fullick has recently published a book on the way forward for London education in collaboration with Tim Brighouse.



East London Consortium ‘Changing Lives’ Project In partnership with The Women’s Library, London Metropolitan University

The ‘Changing Lives’ project takes place annually as a partnership between The Women’s Library, London Metropolitan University, and the East London Consortium of schools. This year, the project has focused on developing skills in visual literacy as a research tool with Year 9 and 10 pupils. As well as being a valuable life skill, visual literacy is required to be successful in many academic subjects, such as the humanities and English, as well as in practical subjects, such as art.

Each school selected for research a woman or group of women who have contributed to social change – hence one meaning of the title, ‘Changing Lives’. Pupils then created a five minute film investigating questions about these women, for example, why they were inspired to seek change and how did they achieve it. In some cases, pupils went to interview the women themselves.

Pupils chose their own style of presentation to represent the stories of these women. The result is a highly energized, creative and inspiring film which demonstrates the power of individual and collective action for change. Each school’s work is individual and unique – together, the voices that come through unite the schools, those women and the pupils that have studied them in a collective expression of the power to ‘change lives’.

Project co-ordinator: Jo Ingham
Film-maker: Mary Mullen

Central Foundation Girls’ School – Helena Normanton

Lead teacher: Tina Cohen

Pupils involved: Tamanna Akther, Taslima Chowdhury, Masuma Farheen, Jumana Khan, Afsara Tasnim

Channing School – Emmeline Pankhurst

Lead teacher: Dr Helen Speight with Miss Gemma Best

Pupils involved: Katia Bazar-Rosen, Rachael Massey, Kitty Murnaghan, Laura Stratford, Eliza Turner

City of London School for Girls – Josephine Butler

Lead teacher: Michelle Greenland

Pupils involved: Alice Costelloe, Olivia Forty, Lizzie Marx, Anya Millington, Flora Moujaes

Highbury Fields – Emily Wilding Davison

Lead teacher: Mat Lyon

Pupils involved: Ellen Grimas, Kayann Kan, Kirsty Moysie, Anna Ward

Mulberry School for Girls – The Southall Black Sisters

Lead teacher: Ms. Lucy Foster with Rubina Begum and Farhana Yeasmien

Pupils involved: Fatima Islam, Tasnim Khanom, Fathema Choudhury, Farhana Hussain, Mahmooda Khanom

The Skinners’ Company’s School for Girls – Greenham Common Women

Lead teacher: Rebecca Warren

Pupils involved: Rubina Ahmad, Farzanah Ausaluth, Gokce Kaday, Stephanie Sarfo, Edanur Yazici



Drama Performance: ‘Women’s Voices, World Change’

The drama performance which will be presented as part of this conference is a devised piece created by pupils from the East London Consortium, led by an experienced drama practitioner and director, David Evans. The performance takes the themes of the conference and explores them through dramatic presentation.

An important element of this conference is ‘student voice’. Through discussion and debate, Mr. Evans has worked with the performers to create a student-led response to the issues that are raised in the conference. This response was then crafted into an expression of those students’ voices through drama.

The students have worked with Mr. Evans to a tight, disciplined timetable, spending the last week of the summer holiday in rehearsal followed by two further days immediately prior to the conference. The whole twenty minute piece is a reflection of the hard work and creativity of all involved over an intense period of time to produce a performance from scratch in six days.

David Evans owns ‘ForgeSolutions’ which works with many schools in this way across the country.

The student performers are: Arinola Akinyemi; Nicole Birch; Lucy Livingston; Georgina Wise; Isobel Cairns; Eliza Easton; Mary Langsdale; Rachel Maby; Vernessa Assanah; Morenike Famodun; Nafiya Hassan; Grace Ajilore; Momtaz Begum; Aniqqa Mortuza; Sabia Miah; Moushumi Chowdhury; Estelle Barrett-Peters; Normot Ishola; Zaneb Hussain; Carmen Stephens.

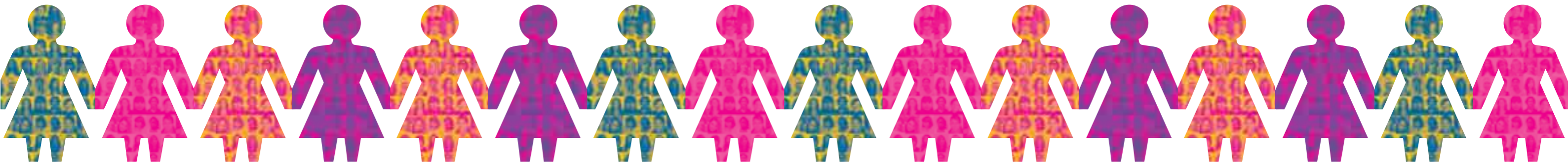
The Conference Monument: ‘Unity Tree’

The conference monument is a piece of art installation created by pupils from the six schools in the East London Consortium in collaboration with a glass artist, Lucy Wade. The concept was developed by Ms. Wade in consultation with the pupils and is symbolic of a number of ideas associated with the role of women and used by women about themselves in art and religion. These ideas are:

- The fig tree as a symbol of fruitfulness and sustenance of human life related to the role of women in child-bearing, education, teaching values to children and feeding families;
- The need to tend fig trees to ensure their fruitfulness for generations to come in the way that women (such those featured in the conference) act to achieve a better world;
- The contribution of the pupils to this unity of purpose through the hanging of beautifully decorated glass spheres, which they have created, onto a fig tree.

Ms. Wade has worked with twelve pupils to create this artwork. At the end of the conference, the pupils will take their own glass pieces with them to display at their own school.

Lucy Wade is a glass artist who works with Mulberry School for Girls. She has her own studio and produces art installations for galleries and other open spaces in buildings or gardens.



Sponsors and Supporters of the Conference

The East London Consortium is grateful for the support we have received from our sponsors, who have provided generous financial support. The Consortium acknowledges the key role and support of our Co-Ordinator, Sir John Rowling. Our sponsors and supporters are listed below. Without them, this conference could not have happened.

Note from John Chastney, the Chairman of Governors for Mulberry School for Girls, Sponsors of the Conference



This conference is for young women, not about young women. So this note is addressed to those women.

You are attending a conference about how you can lead people in your community and, as you grow older and more confident, in industry and commerce, in political circles, in the media and not just in the UK. Increasingly, women are taking high profile roles at the tops of organisations although it is still true that men seem to dominate in many spheres.

Leaders function in different ways and there is no one model which works equally well in all circumstances. You will often find that leaders are good orators; they are always good listeners. This conference is for you. Listen, contribute where you can, look for role models but, most importantly, be yourself. Now is the time to listen to prepare yourselves to take up the challenge.

Note from Sir John Rowling, Co-Ordinator of the East London Consortium, Member of the London Challenge Team at the DCSF



Today's conference is a sequel to an earlier one focusing on Women in Leadership. So important is the issue that it was taken up again this year but this time with an international dimension. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is delighted to support the Executive team of headteachers who have brought this vision to pass in order to challenge young women to make their voice heard locally, nationally and even internationally. Mr McWilliams, Mrs Elliott, Ms Wilkins, Dr Hudson, Dr Burne and especially Ms Ogden have worked tirelessly to present the event of which you are part today. These headteachers are key partners in the East London Consortium of schools committed to maintained-independent school partnership and together had the vision for this

conference. The young women of these schools have enjoyed invaluable opportunities to work together on a project of this kind.

The DCSF extends to all delegates its good wishes for an outstanding experience today. Who knows what impact this will have on your community and even the world in years to come? Five of the six partner schools are led by outstanding women who are making their voice heard powerfully, beneficially and significantly. Their fervent hope is that you will learn to do so too.

Morgan Stanley

The East London Consortium is grateful to Mr. Simon Robey and Ms. Amelia Fawcett of Morgan Stanley for their support and the corporation's financial sponsorship.

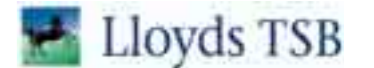
The Department for Children Schools and Families

The East London Consortium is grateful to Ms. Julia Armstrong, Ms. Elaine Haste and the Building Bridges Team at the DCSF for the grant which supports this partnership work.



Lloyds TSB

The East London Consortium is grateful to Ms. Fiona Canon and Ms. Terri Dial of Lloyds TSB for their support and the corporation's financial sponsorship.



Unilever, UK

The East London Consortium is grateful to Ms. Christine Appleby for her support and the corporation's financial sponsorship.



Merrill Lynch, UK

The East London Consortium is grateful to Ms. Tracey Hahn, Ms. Camilla Fletcher and Merrill Lynch UK for their support.



Conference Planning Team

The last 11 months have been a rollercoaster of a ride! Meeting some extraordinary young women, all of whom have been centrally involved in the conference, have opened our eyes to how a small platform of people can come together and make a difference. This was how the idea of collective action and collective change emerged.

It has been amazing to see how the conference has come together. This would not have been achieved without the help of many remarkable people.

First and foremost, we would like to thank Vanessa Ogden for giving us the opportunity to lead such a high profile event. We do not think at the time she knew what she was getting herself into! However, we are grateful for the trust she has had in us. This whole event would not have happened without her guidance, determination and encouragement.

We would like to thank all the people that were involved in every aspect of the conference planning, organisation and content.

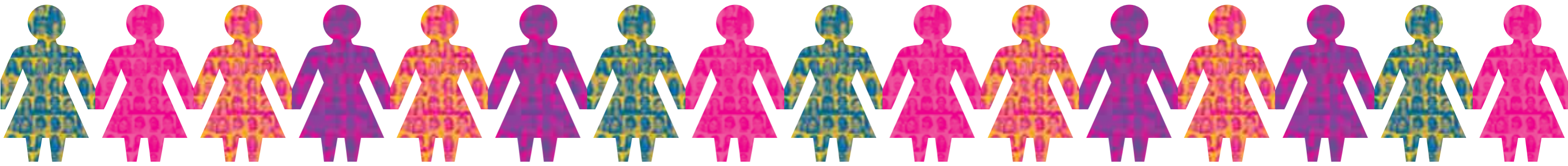
All the students and teachers involved in the changing lives project, including, Lucy Foster, Kathy Pacey, Joanna Ingham, Mary Mullen and the Women's Library. I'm sure everyone will agree that the students did a terrific job producing the film. Thank you to Julia Voce and David Evans for the production of an innovative drama piece and also Lucy Wade for her exceptional contributions in the glass project.

Not forgetting, Shanaz Begum for all her help setting up the 1000 Peace Women exhibition and general administration work. AJ Lew for being an amazing PA (not ours, Vanessa's!). Dilsana Hussain for putting up with us invading her office for the last few months!

And finally, David Crome and his team for his artistic eye and amazing art work for the invites and this brochure. Thank you for your patience while we spent weeks gathering all the material!

This conference would not have taken place without the support and participation of the six school consortium. We hope you enjoy the event as much as we enjoyed organising it.

Rubina Begum & Farhana Yeasmien



The Schools in the East London Consortium

Central Foundation Girls' School

Headteacher: Anne Hudson

Central Foundation Girls' School, designated a 'High Performing School' by the government, is an exciting place to work and learn. Our large, inclusive 11-18 inner-city girls' school is located in Bow, London E3.

As a Performing Arts specialist school, we promote creativity, expression, communication skills and emotional intelligence. We now have a second specialism, which we call 'Voice', raising awareness of and respect for human rights and increasing commitment to sustainable development. Our students learn how to find out what's going on in the world, how to have a say and how to make a difference. As our slogan proclaims, we are educating tomorrow's women, enabling our students to achieve academic excellence and self fulfilment. They are developing and practising skills as active citizens, champions of environmental sustainability and leaders.

The importance of the conference

The focus of the conference highlights the school's mission of educating tomorrow's women and preparing our students for global leadership. The conference will allow them to be inspired and motivated by women who have helped make the world a better place. Student delegates will work with teachers to develop lessons and activities for KS3; they themselves will teach and inspire other pupils about what they have learned.



Channing School, Highgate

Headteacher: Barbara Elliott

Channing School was founded in 1885 by two sisters, Emily and Matilda Sharpe, who were determined to provide girls with similar educational opportunities to their brothers.

Located in beautiful grounds in Highgate, Channing has always been known as a school where girls are happy and fulfilled. We hope to leave school as thoughtful, responsible and socially aware adults ready, willing and able to respond to the challenges of the world today, locally, nationally and internationally. We aim to remain true to the ideals of our Unitarian foundation, to develop spiritual sensitivity and understanding and in particular to foster respect and consideration for the whole range of human faiths and beliefs.

The importance of the conference

This conference will allow young women in London to come together to experience and learn about their potential to lead global change. Most of our pupils have leadership roles already as we are an all-girls school. We will be adding an environmental council to our pupil leadership activities. Previous collaborative projects between our schools have opened our eyes to the power we have to effect change, not just to observe it passively. The future of our world may depend on how we respond to what we hear, see and share at the conference.



City of London School for Girls

Headteacher: Diana Vernon



Located in the very heart of the square mile, the City of London School for Girls was founded in 1894 by William Ward, who strongly believed in the liberal education of young women. The School aims for excellence in both academic results and personal development, and aspires to foster in each of us a love of learning and a thirst to succeed which will influence us throughout our lives.

City girls are renowned for their confidence and vitality which give City its distinctive atmosphere. While celebrating our traditions and history, the school is committed to embracing the future. Scholarships and bursaries enable girls from all backgrounds to join City and this diversity within the student body has instilled in us a respect for different outlooks within society.

The importance of the conference

The conference gives us the opportunity to explore contrasting beliefs and practices surrounding women's roles in societies around the globe. Pupils have shared information about a variety of societies' attitudes towards womankind. We are aware of how fortunate we are to have the opportunities we do, and we believe strongly that girls throughout the world deserve the same. By learning about women all around the world, we intend to support this belief with positive action.

Highbury Fields School

Headteacher: Bernard McWilliams

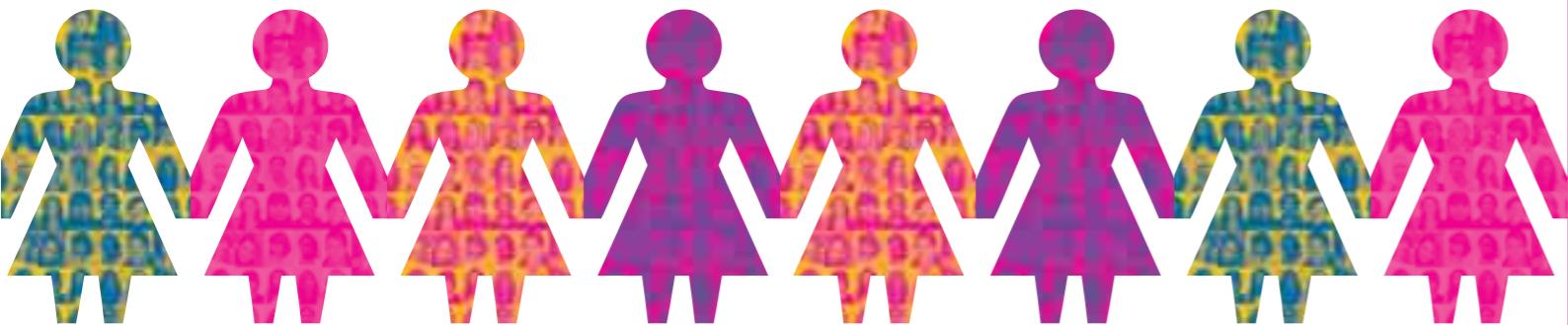


Over the years Highbury Fields Girls' School has changed much. From being a teachers' training centre, it has transformed into a secondary school which holds over 700 students.

Now known as a science specialist college and a beacon school, Highbury Fields has higher standards at GCSE than before and the school has a strong ethos of good behaviour. The girls-only environment is of great importance at Highbury. Our girls work hard, more independently and more effectively in this environment. Being intelligent as well as talented in many ways, the ethos is vibrant and stimulating. With our pupils and staff speaking over 42 languages and the school having a wide selection of clubs and activities, Highbury Fields is a fabulous place to be.

The importance of the conference

The conference is important because it influences young minds on the past, present and future of women. It is important that we remind ourselves of the powerful women who have supported gender equality in the past and that we encourage the next generation to do the same. Leadership is the focus of this conference because it helps develop confidence, to bring our point of view across and to stand up for what we believe in. As well as building up leadership skills, the conference is a positive move to involve everyone and encourage all of us to take up the challenges.



Mulberry School for Girls

Headteacher: Vanessa Ogden



Mulberry School for Girls is a community school for 1410 young women aged between 11-19. The school is close to Whitechapel and Shadwell. It is in the heart of Tower Hamlets' multi-cultural community and on the edge of the City of London with which we have firm business links. We have an Arts specialism, Training School status and International School status; Mulberry is the lead Extended School in our Local Area Partnership.

Mulberry has gained a reputation for student ambassadorship, public speaking and academic excellence. Mulberry leads the United Nations MUNGA work with schools in London, hosting several youth conferences and making international visits and addressing the UN General Assembly. Mulberry School aims to develop the aspirations, leadership capabilities, confidence and self-expression of young women. Our students acquire sensitivity and respect for others, the ability to be articulate and confident and the capacity to create positive change in the world.

The importance of the conference

Leadership issues for women in different countries and within a diversity of social settings, cultures, beliefs and values vary enormously. By hearing directly from those women currently leading global change, students will be inspired, motivated and encouraged to believe they can make a difference.

The Skinners' Company's School for Girls

Headteacher: Jenny Wilkins



Skinners' Company's School for Girls is an inner-city girls' comprehensive school which was founded in 1890 by the Skinners' Company to provide high quality education for girls in Hackney. We welcome students whose families come from all over the world and they speak over 45 languages. The school encourages all students to achieve at the highest possible level and has been a member of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust Value Added Club in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Skinners' is a Business and Enterprise specialist school. We provide a wide range of opportunities to develop enterprise and leadership skills through activities such as NFTE, winning a business trip to New York; Young Enterprise and other social enterprise activities. The school has just become a Young Chamber School (one of only three in London), been awarded Healthy Schools status and achieved the International Award. We have an active citizenship curriculum and Skinners' students are renowned for their confidence and vitality. The school believes that by working in the local community and with major businesses they will develop the skills and qualities to become the leaders of the future.

The importance of the conference

This conference provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of women in the global community and what they can achieve, individually and collaboratively, to help shape a better world. We hope that as young people from our schools enter the workforce and become increasingly active in their communities they will take inspiration from the conference to lead and to be unafraid to challenge the status quo.





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