



Empowering Women

Honouring and celebrating the best in Yorkshire!

**Sunday
13th July, 2025**

Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford



#BPAEW2025 #BPAEmpoweringWomen

INTRODUCTION

This year, as Asian Express marks its 25th anniversary, it felt only fitting to take our long-running commitment to storytelling and turn it into something more powerful.

Since our inception, we have published tens of thousands of inspiring stories, and produced over 6,000 business feature articles on entrepreneurs, innovators, businesses and business leaders.

Since the year 2000, 'Business Power' has been more than just an editorial section in Asian Express - it's been a platform for ambition, innovation, and excellence - it's put a spotlight on entrepreneurs, disruptors, trailblazing businesses, and visionary leaders.

It was only right that we brought the celebration, literally, from "page to stage" with the launch of the 'Business Power Awards' (BPA), a live showcase honouring the very brilliance we've championed for decades.

Boosted by the unwavering support of brands that we work with, meant that BPA has been able to fuel the 'Empowering Women Awards' - a tribute to women who dared to dream, build, and lead, often without fanfare, but who deserve the spotlight now more than ever.

As a woman, I'm deeply invested in equity and advocacy for women. When we share their journeys, we inspire the next generation - unleashing belief of their own potential, helping them achieve their dreams - we invoke the belief that "... if she can... I can."

Tonight, BPA Empowering Women Awards celebrates some truly inspiring women - women whose stories are the embodiment of change-making, resilience, innovation, all of which have a lasting social impact.

To every sponsor, partner, nominee, finalist, and supporter - you are all at the very heart of this moment. Tonight this moment marks a movement, a movement for celebrating excellence, inclusive leadership, equality, diversity, and sheer brilliance!

Welcome to the BPA Empowering Women Movement. Let's build and celebrate the future, together.

Andleeb Hanif

Chair Business Power Awards

Co-Founder & Editor Asian Express Newspaper

#BusinessPowerAwards | #BPAEmpoweringWomen

#BPAEW | #PowerCollective

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



What began in 2001 as a modest bakery operation in Bradford has grown into a global food empire. Regal Foods, founded in the heart of West Yorkshire, started with one humble product - puff pastry fingers, and a single delivery van.

Catering to local convenience stores and the South Asian community, Regal was built on the pillars of quality, tradition, and ambition.

Just three years into its journey, the demand for Regal products had outgrown its original setup. This led to the opening of Regal House, a dedicated production facility that signalled a major leap forward. Around the same time, Regal secured shelf space in major UK supermarkets, including Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, and Sainsbury's - a breakthrough moment that introduced their distinct flavours to the mainstream.

At the helm of this extraordinary growth is Younis Chaudhry, founder and now CEO, who steered the company into a new era of innovation while keeping it firmly family-led. Regal Foods now produces more than 400 products - from cakes and biscuits to traditional South Asian snacks - supplying over 3,000 UK retailers and exporting to more than 50 countries worldwide.

In 2022, the company's global impact was recognised with the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade. With over 350 employees across sites in Bradford and Leeds, Regal remains one of the region's largest private employers.

Today, the Regal Foods Group is home to a growing family of brands:

Love Handmade Cakes (Leeds): Specialising in cakes,

traybakes, and muffins for the foodservice industry.

Just Desserts Yorkshire (Shipley): Creating handcrafted cheesecakes, gateaux, and tarts for cafés and farm shops.

Yorkshire Baking Company (Bradford): Known nationwide for its classic sponge cakes, beloved by UK shoppers.

Both Regal Bakery and Yorkshire Baking Company are ranked among the UK's top 20 cake brands - a testament to their quality and consistency.

Yet despite its international reach, Regal remains rooted in Bradford. The company gives back through its Bradford Community Kitchen, as well as supporting local grassroots and charitable initiatives. For Regal, success isn't just measured in sales - it's defined by community, heritage, and the joy of sharing good food.

Visit: www.rfplc.com for more information.



Bringing food to life



www.shopatregal.com

With a proud legacy spanning 53 years, the Sekhon Group stands as one of the most dynamic and visionary property development companies in the North of England. Headquartered in West Yorkshire, the Group has built a stellar reputation by breathing new life into historic and disused buildings—transforming them into vibrant homes and workspaces that serve every level of society, from social housing tenants to luxury-seeking professionals. Their unique strength lies in identifying overlooked or derelict properties and reimagining them into functional, beautiful, and community-enhancing spaces. With an unshakeable commitment to style and interior décor, the Sekhon Group fuses heritage with innovation—earning admiration from peers, local councils, and national property

leaders alike. Operating across Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Wakefield, and the wider West Riding, they have successfully converted projects ranging from 10 to 162 units. Their flagship development, The Halycon—the stunning transformation of the former Bradford & Bingley headquarters on an 11-acre site—was recently showcased at the UKREiif in Leeds, the region's most prestigious real estate event. Featuring 162 high-spec apartments alongside a meandering stream, this site is a shining example of the Group's capability and vision. The Sekhon Group is also the largest independent provider of student accommodation in Huddersfield, with strong working partnerships with both the University of Huddersfield and the University of Bradford. Their developments have generated over £1.5 million annually in

council tax revenue, making a significant contribution to local economies. Led by Simmy Sekhon, the senior leadership team includes industry veterans and thought leaders such as Dr. Nirmal Singh MBE FRSA, Harmesh Kaur, Kami Sodhi, Balby Singh Panesar DL, and Dr. Samir Khan. Together, they drive a mission rooted in ethical growth, conscientious development, and meaningful employment for hundreds in the construction sector. By December 2025, the Group will have completed 2,000 apartments and developed 267 commercial units—a monumental achievement built on collaboration, creativity, and community. Their ethos is simple yet powerful: build equity with integrity, and always give back. Joint venture partnerships are welcomed, ensuring prosperity is shared and purpose-driven growth continues.



PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN THE NORTH

www.sekhongroup.co.uk



When life throws up unexpected challenges, having the right legal team by your side can make all the difference. For over 20 years, JWP Solicitors has been a trusted name across Yorkshire, providing expert legal support with a personal, down-to-earth touch.

With offices in Bradford, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Leeds, Pontefract, and Batley, JWP offers regional strength with local accessibility.

The firm is known not just for its legal excellence, but for genuinely caring about the people it serves. Whether you're navigating a difficult family matter, facing a criminal charge, or planning for the future, JWP delivers tailored, compassionate advice every step of the way.

Family law is a cornerstone of their practice. From divorce and separation to child arrangements, domestic abuse, and adoption, their team

handles sensitive cases with empathy and professionalism. They understand the emotional toll such issues can take and are committed to helping clients reach the best possible outcomes for themselves and their families.

JWP Solicitors is also recognised for its strong track record in criminal defence and road traffic cases. Their experienced legal advocates provide robust representation from the first police interview through to trial, protecting clients' rights and futures.

Equally, future planning is made easier with the firm's private client services, including wills, probate, and lasting powers of attorney.

Clients trust JWP to guide them through important decisions with care, ensuring their wishes are respected and their loved ones protected.

At JWP, accessibility and affordability are central values. The firm takes pride in offering flexible solutions tailored to each client's individual circumstances - ensuring high-quality legal services are within reach for everyone.

In times of stress or uncertainty, you need more than just a solicitor - you need someone in your corner. With JWP Solicitors, you gain not only expert legal representation but a partner who stands with you when it matters most.

Call **01924 387171** or
visit **www.jwpsolicitors.co.uk**
to find out how JWP Solicitors
can support you.



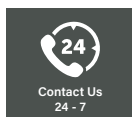
Specialist Yorkshire Solicitors

With Offices Across The Region

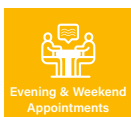
- Divorce
- Separation
- Domestic Abuse
- Family
- Children
- Adoption
- Wills and Probate
- Powers of Attorney
- Road Traffic
- Criminal Defence
- and more....



No Hidden Costs



Contact Us
24 - 7



Evening & Weekend
Appointments

Contact Us **01924 387171**
www.jwpsolicitors.co.uk



The ancient wisdom of honey - why raw British honey deserves a place in your kitchen: For generations, Asian families have treasured honey as both medicine and nourishment.

From traditional Chinese medicine to Ayurvedic healing, honey has been revered as nature's pharmacy. Today, science confirms what our ancestors knew: raw honey is one of nature's most powerful health foods.

Raw honey comes straight from the hive with nothing added, nothing removed. While processed supermarket honey has been heated and filtered, raw honey retains all its natural enzymes and beneficial compounds.

Hive & Keeper's raw honey follows the traditional way: Simply spun from honeycomb, sieved to remove wax, and jarred. No heating, no processing, no chemicals – just pure honey as the bees made it.

Your gut health deserves the best: Raw honey contains complex sugars that act as prebiotics – food for beneficial bacteria in your digestive system. Try this simple morning ritual: Mix raw honey into natural yogurt. The yogurt provides probiotics (good bacteria), while honey feeds these bacteria, strengthening your digestive health.

Sweeter than sugar, better for your body: Raw honey is naturally twice as sweet as refined sugar, so you need only half the amount. Perfect for tea lovers: Honey's natural complex sugars remain stable in hot drinks, making your afternoon tea a health-boosting ritual giving your gut a probiotic boost.

Natural energy your body recognises: The glucose in raw honey provides immediate, steady energy without the crashes caused by processed sugars. Perfect for busy families needing natural fuel

throughout the day.

British quality you can trust: Hive & Keeper works directly with UK beekeepers. Each jar can be traced back to specific hives and harvest dates – transparency that's increasingly rare in today's food market.

Raw honey varies in colour and flavour depending on which flowers the bees visited. This natural variation proves authenticity – processed honey looks identical because it's been standardised and heated.

Smart shopping for health-conscious families: Single jars let you try raw honey, or subscription options save up to 40%. Free delivery on orders over £25 makes it easy to stock up.

Visit www.hiveandkeeper.com to discover the raw honey that's right for your family.

Visit
www.hiveandkeeper.com
for more information.



Each of our honeys is simply spun from the hive by the beekeeper and then jarred – that's it. Just pure, raw honey exactly as the bees made it.

Please visit us at
www.hiveandkeeper.com
for raw honeys from around the UK, gift sets and Honey Club subscriptions.



From humble beginnings on Little Horton Lane to becoming one of the UK's most respected foodservice wholesalers, Adams Foodservice is a true Bradford success story.

Founded by Second World War veteran Mirza Khan, the business began as a small local grocery shop. Over time, it transformed into a seafood distributor, then into a thriving national operator with a reputation for quality, value, and personalised customer care.

In October 2024, Adams entered an exciting new chapter when it was acquired by Bestway Wholesale, one of the UK's largest wholesale distributors. The move brought with it significant resources, infrastructure, and scale - while preserving the company's deeply held community ethos.

With a turnover approaching £100 million and nine distribution centres nationwide,

Adams now serves a growing customer base across the UK. The partnership with Bestway has brought improved logistics, enhanced product availability, and even greater service reliability - enabling Adams to compete at the highest levels of the industry.

Recognition quickly followed. In late 2023, Adams won the Federation of Wholesale Distributors (FWD) Gold Award for Foodservice Wholesaler of the Year. Beating out several long-established competitors, the win cemented its status as an industry leader. Judges praised the company's innovation, growth, and dedication to its customers.

Adams' achievements, however, go beyond the bottom line. Under Bestway's stewardship, the company has doubled down on sustainability, operating net-zero depots, investing in solar energy, and rolling out electric vehicles across its fleet.

Environmental consciousness is now embedded in the company's operations.

Equally inspiring is Adams' commitment to community. Through initiatives like the Ramadan Cake Campaign, the business has raised more than £2.3 million for charitable causes. In 2024, it received a Social Mobility Award, a nod to its inclusive hiring practices and dedication to workforce development.

As Adams Foodservice looks ahead, the future is bright. The synergy between its entrepreneurial roots and Bestway's national muscle positions it for even greater success.

Whether it's delivering quality food products or creating opportunities in the community, Adams continues to lead by example - proof that a local business with heart can rise to national acclaim.

www.adamsfoodservice.com



ADAMS
FOODSERVICE



BESTWAY
WHOLESALE

ADAMS FOODSERVICE, THE BESTWAY TO SHOP & SAVE



A beloved name across Yorkshire's South Asian communities, Abu Bakr Supermarkets have five stores across Yorkshire, including flagship superstores in Kirkstall Road, Leeds, and a custom-renovated 12,000 square-foot site in Blakeridge Mill Shopping Centre, Batley.

From fresh produce and a custom-built halal butchery to a vibrant bakery, homewares section, and international food aisles, the halal supermarkets are a reflection of Abu Bakr's continued commitment to quality, convenience, and community.

A standout feature are their 'food-to-go counters', serving freshly prepared vegetarian, chicken, fish, and meat dishes - ideal for modern families with busy lifestyles.

The legacy of Abu Bakr Supermarkets dates back to the 1970s when the late

Chawdry Mohammed Aslam and his brothers opened a small grocery store in Keighley.

The family's journey gained momentum when eldest son Abid Hussain (fondly known as Brother Abid) brought the business to Leeds' Hilltop Avenue in 1981, initially operating as a fish and chip shop with an attached halal butchery. From there, the business grew steadily, expanding to Roundhay Road, Hyde Park, Beeston, Kirkstall, and Batley.

Abu Bakr's secret to success? "Respect and unity," says Brother Abid.

"This is not just a business. It's a legacy built by our father, powered by the prayers of our parents, and driven by family working as one team."

Brother Abid credits much of the supermarket's success to his younger brothers

Sajid and Wajid, whom he affectionately refers to as his "arms" - working closely beside him in growing a business that now serves thousands across Yorkshire.

Their leadership has seen Abu Bakr evolve from a small local store into a respected, full-service grocery destination.

But Abu Bakr's impact extends far beyond its shop floors.

Brother Abid is a renowned community champion, supporting food banks, homeless shelters, and grassroots charities. He has also personally led aid missions to countries like Pakistan and regions of Africa, funding water wells and other vital resources.

During times of crisis - whether local or global - the Abu Bakr team is among the first to step up and help.

YORKSHIRE'S LEADING ASIAN SUPERMARKET



abu bakr

NEW FLAGSHIP STORE

BATLEY

Unit A, Blakeridge
Mill Shopping
WF17 8FU
Tel: 01924 950 730

HYDE PARK

37 Queens Road,
Leeds,
LS6 1NY.
Tel: 0113 2899 152

KIRKSTALL

330 Kirkstall Road,
Burley,
Leeds, LS4 2DN.
Tel: 0113 8244 578

ROUNDHAY

215 Roundhay
Road,
Harehills, LS8 4HS
Tel: 01132 408 673

BEESTON

259 Dewsbury
Road,
Leeds, LS11 5HZ
Tel: 0113 2779 934

International Restaurant has a five-decade legacy of flavour, family and fine dining.

Established in 1976, International Restaurant has proudly stood as a cornerstone of Bradford's dining scene - a living testament to the city's rich culinary heritage as the Curry Capital of the UK. More than just a restaurant, it's a symbol of tradition, innovation, and enduring excellence.

When Mr Bashir and Mr Rehman opened the doors nearly 50-years ago, they couldn't have imagined the legacy they were building.

What began as a modest venture - a place for business meetings and sharing meals with friends, soon blossomed into one of Yorkshire's most iconic dining establishments.

Their vision, rooted in warmth and community, laid the foundation for what would become a multi-award-winning restaurant recognised across

the UK. Today, International is known not only for its impeccable South Asian cuisine but also for offering a complete fine dining experience.

From elegant interiors and a welcoming atmosphere to exceptional service and convenient parking, every element is carefully curated.

As guests walk through the doors, they aren't just coming for a meal - they're stepping into a piece of Bradford's culinary history. And yet, International refuses to rest on reputation alone.

Under the dynamic leadership of Safeer, his brothers, and Danyaal, the restaurant has embraced a bold new chapter.

In a transition where many

family-run establishments falter, the next generation has risen to the challenge, evolving International into what many call "International 2.0" - a blend of timeless tradition and modern sophistication.

Their efforts have elevated the brand further, leading to the opening of a second location and plans for future expansion.

What makes International unique is not just the food - though its rich, flavour-packed dishes are second to none - but the flawless synergy of taste, service, and experience. It's a restaurant that doesn't just meet expectations; it redefines them.

As they say: "You've tried the rest. Now try the best."

For reservations, or enquiries, head over to
www.internationalrestaurant.co.uk



International
ULTIMATE DINING

20% OFF

Valid from
14th July - 10th
August 2025

on production of this voucher.
Excludes Fri & Sat.

AWARD WINNING RESTAURANT

BRADFORD

42 Manville Terrace, Bradford, BD7 1BA
☎ 01274 721 449

254 Sticker Lane, Bradford, BD4 8RN
☎ 01274 688 799

Meet SKB Law When people think of family law, they often imagine conflict, courtrooms and costly disputes.

But at SKB Law, the approach is different - modern, human, and built around real people, not just legal processes.

Founded by award-winning solicitor Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE, SKB Law is a specialist firm advising clients across the UK on divorce, finances, child arrangements and Islamic marriage matters.

With over 25 years' experience, Sarah and her team are known for handling complex family issues with strategic insight, discretion and empathy. "We often meet people at their most vulnerable," Sarah explains.

"The end of a relationship, uncertainty about the children or the home, pressure from family, or just not knowing where to begin. Our job is to give people clarity, confidence -

and options."

What sets SKB Law apart is its innovative and client-first approach. From fixed-fee services to digital tools, the firm is reshaping how legal advice is delivered - offering expert support that's easier to access, understand and apply.

Whether someone wants tailored legal guidance or a more independent, self-led route, SKB Law helps them move forward in a way that suits their needs and circumstances.

Globally, SKB Law works with clients across the Middle East and North America, particularly those facing cross-border family issues or cultural concerns around marriage, divorce and financial settlements. This blend of legal expertise and cultural

awareness makes SKB Law a trusted choice across the UK and beyond.

SKB Law is also behind the podcast Family Matters with Sarah, now in its fourth season and recognised as one of the UK's Top 10 Divorce Podcasts. The show features real conversations about separation, co-parenting, and life after divorce.

Alongside her legal practice, Sarah runs the SKB Law Academy, providing mentoring and placements to the next generation of legal talent. Since 2018, the Academy has supported hundreds of local young people - and been recognised nationally for its social impact efforts. Clear, modern, innovative - SKB Law is changing the face of family law for the better.

To learn more, visit www.skblawfirm.co.uk

Listen: Family Matters with Sarah - Apple, Spotify, YouTube

Follow: @skblawuk



SKB LAW

Family law strategists — for when life changes

Divorce | Children | Finances
Nikah Nama | Pre-Nups
UK and Cross-Border

www.skblawfirm.co.uk

Scan the QR code to connect with Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE - solicitor, founder of SKB Law

dbs
Jewellery

The 22ct Jewellery Specialist



DBS Jewellery
Jewellery Quarter
Birmingham
B18 6ND

Viewings by appointment only
www.dbsjewellery.co.uk
0121 798 0880

Buy now, Pay later

clearpay

Klarna.

As seen at the

ASIANA
BRIDAL SHOW



★ Trustpilot



Blacks Solicitors is proud to support the BPA's Empowering Women Awards, an event that shines a light on the remarkable women making a difference in their communities and industries.

As a firm that values talent, ambition and integrity in all its forms, celebrating these achievements is something Blacks wholeheartedly champions.

Based at City Point, in the heart of Leeds, Blacks is one of the region's leading law firms, offering a full range of legal services to commercial and private clients across Yorkshire and the UK.

With 32 partners and over 220 staff, the firm has grown impressively in both size and reputation.

Blacks delivers specialist advice across Corporate & Commercial Law, Real Estate, Dispute Resolution,

Employment, Private Wealth, Family Law and more. It also serves a wide range of sectors including Healthcare, Education, Energy, Sport and Music.

From household names like Harrogate Spring Water and Rudding Park to supporting individuals navigating life's key milestones, the firm is trusted for its practical and personal approach.

The last year has seen significant growth across the firm, including the launch of new services in Regulatory, Music and Construction Law.

At the same time, Blacks continues to evolve, investing in AI-led systems to streamline casework and delivering in-house training on topics such as Equality, Diversity and Sexual Harassment to ensure the firm remains a progressive, respectful, supportive and inspirational place to work.

Blacks was recently recognised as "Legal Employer of the Year 2025" at the Yorkshire Business Hero Awards and retains its position as a Leading Firm in The Legal 500. It also achieved Lexcel accreditation, the Law Society's gold standard for client care and practice management and was named a "World Class Company to Work For" by Best Companies.

With a growing number of women in senior roles at the firm, including nine female partners and a clear commitment to building an inclusive, collaborative culture, Blacks continues to attract top talent and deliver outstanding results.

To learn more about Blacks Solicitors, visit www.lawblacks.com.

When you need specialist legal advice...

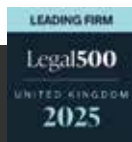
Blacks Solicitors is proud to support the BPA's Empowering Women Awards.

Blacks Solicitors provides a wide range of legal advice to commercial and private clients across Yorkshire and throughout the UK.

Our legal services include:

- Corporate Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Real Estate
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Private Wealth & Succession

For more information about our services, please contact us today.



Contact us

T: 0113 207 0000

E: Hello@LawBlacks.com

Follow us on LinkedIn

Blacks Solicitors LLP
City Point, 29 King Street
Leeds, LS1 2HL
www.LawBlacks.com

Bradford became the fourth UK City of Culture in January 2025.

The district was selected by the UK Government in May 2022 from a record-breaking 20 bids, following Derry~Londonderry (2013), Hull (2017) and Coventry (2021) to take on one of the most prestigious and transformative titles in UK culture.

Bradford 2025 takes place throughout Bradford District, which covers 141 square miles across West Yorkshire. It features performances, exhibitions, events and activities inspired by the extraordinary variety of this landscape, from the city's historic centre to the breathtaking countryside that surrounds it. It pays homage to Bradford's potent heritage as everything from a former industrial powerhouse to the world's first UNESCO City of Film. Most of all, it celebrates the people of Bradford, from local artists and creative

organisations to the diverse communities who call Bradford home.

Bradford 2025 is created for, with and by the people of Bradford – and it has young people at its heart. With more than a quarter of its population aged under 20, Bradford is one of the UK's youngest cities. Bradford 2025 is proudly reflecting this youth across all aspects of its programme, from education, skills and training projects to new artistic commissions centred on the lives, concerns and ambitions of young people today.

Bradford 2025 is set to spotlight Bradford's dynamic contemporary arts and culture, from dance and theatre to film, music and even food. At the same time, it will cement Bradford's reputation as one of the most welcoming places in the UK for artists, producers and creative entrepreneurs, with international exchanges, development programmes

and new cultural investment benefiting the entire district.

The impact of UK City of Culture will continue long after the end of 2025. The district's designation has already brought significant investment to the region, and Bradford 2025 is set to serve as a catalyst for development, regeneration and change – reshaping Bradford for the benefit of future generations.

Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture is delivered by Bradford Culture Company, a charity supported by public investment from HM Government, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and through National Lottery funding from Arts Council England, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund, Spirit of 2012, British Film Institute and a number of trusts, foundations and corporate sponsors.



In an industry where trust and precision are paramount, The Accounting Company (Leeds) Ltd has carved out a legacy defined by integrity, growth, and unwavering client commitment.

What began as a small, client-focused practice in 1988 has blossomed into a dynamic and respected firm, serving over 500 businesses across sectors with a reputation for excellence.

The firm's foundation was laid by Mrs. Nazreen Ahmed, who started as a self-employed accountant in Leeds. Her passion for helping businesses thrive, coupled with her sharp financial acumen, saw her officially acquire the practice in 2000.

Five years later, in 2005, the company was incorporated under its now widely respected name. At that point, it served just 50 clients with a two-person team.

Today, it supports a thriving portfolio with a growing team of ten professionals - a testament to decades of hard work, trust-building, and results.

From sole traders to companies turning over £10 million, The Accounting Company (Leeds) Ltd has become a financial cornerstone for businesses across the region.

The firm's broad suite of services - from statutory accounts, tax compliance, payroll, and VAT returns to strategic financial advisory and cash flow management, is tailored to meet the real-world challenges of modern business.

But beyond technical capability, what truly sets this firm apart is its ethos: approachable, proactive, and deeply invested in client success.

Clients see them not merely as accountants, but as trusted partners - allies in navigating

the ever-evolving financial landscape with confidence.

Their transparent and competitive pricing model ensures premium services remain accessible to businesses at every stage of growth, and their commitment to simplifying complex financial matters empowers clients to focus on what matters most: running and expanding their businesses.

As the firm marks more than three decades of service, it remains grounded in the values that sparked its inception - integrity, reliability, and relationship-driven excellence.

With an eye on the future and roots deeply anchored in its community, The Accounting Company (Leeds) Ltd continues to grow alongside its clients, proving that with the right guidance, financial clarity and business success go hand in hand.



The Accounting
Company Leeds Ltd

NEED HELP? TALK TO THE EXPERTS

TEL: 0113 240 3227

172 Easterly Road, Leeds LS8 3AD

• ACCOUNTING • PAYROLL • CORPORATION TAX • VAT • FINANCIAL ADVICE • BUSINESS START-UP

Small Business Owner, Consultant, Contractor or Freelancer?

Bookkeeping & Management Accounting
Payroll & Enrolment Services
Taxation, Tax Returns & VAT Services

Are you a Landlord or Self Employed Sub Contractor?

Landlord Tax Returns & Advice
Property Tax Enquiries & Investigations
Construction Industry Scheme (CIS)

Why not book a **FREE CONSULTATION** with one of our experienced accountants? Find out how we can help with tax returns, VAT returns, personal tax, tax planning, tax advice and financial reporting. Our accounting service is offered to all small business and business owners.

www.theaccountingcompanyleeds.co.uk

From humble beginnings to global recognition, P&B (Foods) Limited has grown into one of the UK and Europe's leading independent wholesalers and distributors of authentic ethnic foods.

Proudly home to the iconic Heera brand, the company has become a name trusted by retailers, wholesalers, and families for generations.

Founded in 1970, P&B Foods began with a simple mission: to deliver high-quality, authentic products that reflect the rich culinary traditions of South Asia and beyond. Over five decades later, that mission remains unchanged - but the scale and impact of the business have evolved dramatically.

Operating from a state-of-the-art 200,000 sq. ft. facility, the company now manufactures, mills, packs and processes an extensive range of premium goods, with over 2,700 customers across 24 countries.

From bustling independent shops to major international wholesalers, P&B's reach continues to expand thanks to enduring partnerships and a reputation for excellence.

What sets P&B apart is its commitment to innovation and in-house capability.

The facility boasts dedicated packing lines, a specialist nut roasting unit, spice and nut grinding mills, a cryogenic milling system, and an advanced powder blending plant.

Additionally, a cutting-edge sauce and condiment manufacturing site allows the team to craft fresh, bold flavours tailored to evolving customer tastes.

At the heart of this growth is the Heera brand - a beloved household name that has become synonymous with authenticity. Heera's extensive range includes rice, lentils, pulses, spices, flours, sauces, and tinned goods. Beyond

food, Heera also offers incense sticks in a wide variety of soothing fragrances, bringing comfort and cultural warmth into homes across the world.

P&B Foods' success is rooted in consistency, integrity, and an unwavering dedication to quality. While deeply proud of its heritage, the company remains forward-looking, investing in product innovation, sustainable practices, and community relationships that will sustain it for decades to come.

As it looks to the future, P&B (Foods) Limited remains committed to delivering the taste of tradition with the quality you can trust - continuing to serve communities, preserve culinary heritage, and share the bold, diverse flavours of the world, one product at a time.

Visit:
www.heerafoods.com
for more information.



**King in Quality,
King in Taste!**

**OVER
55 YEARS**
of serving
the nation

*Proud to support this
evening of celebration*

info@pbfoods.co.uk
www.heerafoods.com

The advertisement features a row of Heera brand product bags including Black Kidney Beans, Black Eye Beans, Moong Whole, Chick Peas, Urid Whole, Kala Channa, and Rosecoco Beans. In front of the bags are three bowls containing different types of spices or lentils. The background is dark with hanging spice containers.

From humble beginnings in the aftermath of the devastating 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, the Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) has become a global symbol of compassion and impact.

Founded by Chaudhary Muhammad Akhtar and based in Leicester, this UK-registered charity has transformed tragedy into a legacy of hope - one child, one woman, one family at a time.

KORT's journey began in a rented building in Mirpur, but with the unshakable support of donors and volunteers, it has grown into a lifeline for thousands. At its core is a mission not just to provide aid, but to restore dignity, purpose, and future potential to the most vulnerable.

Central to this mission is KORT's pioneering Widow Empowerment Programme. In regions where widowed

women are often left destitute and voiceless, KORT steps in with practical, life-altering solutions - vocational training, sewing machines, and the construction of safe, secure homes.

By enabling women to earn a livelihood and raise their children independently, KORT transforms individual lives and strengthens entire communities.

Education is another cornerstone. KORT's state-of-the-art Educational Complexes in Mirpur and Swabi are far more than schools.

They are sanctuaries of healing and growth, offering everything from modern schooling and nutritious meals to medical care, religious nurturing, and sports opportunities. Here, orphaned and vulnerable children don't just receive an education - they flourish into future leaders.

KORT's reach also spans

continents during times of crisis. Whether it's sending emergency aid during the Pakistan floods of 2010 and 2022, or delivering urgent relief convoys to war-torn Gaza, KORT responds with integrity, speed, and heart.

Its climate-conscious efforts were even recognised on the global stage at COP28 in Dubai, cementing its place as a forward-thinking humanitarian force.

Every act of giving - whether a donation or an hour of volunteered time - feeds into a powerful movement. One that rebuilds homes, restores dignity, and rekindles futures.

KORT is more than a charity. It's a promise - that with compassion, courage, and collective action, we can rewrite the stories of the world's most vulnerable. KORT reminds us: together, we can build lives filled with purpose, pride, and lasting hope.

**EMPOWER HER,
AND SHE'LL
EMPOWER
THE COMMUNITY**

**DONATE A
SEWING
MACHINE
£35**

KORT

www.kort.org.uk | info@kort.org.uk | 0300 123 7774

Cedar Court Hotels, Yorkshire's largest independent hotel chain offers a unique blend of local charm, warm hospitality, and modern comfort.

With three distinct properties located in Bradford, Harrogate and Huddersfield, Cedar Court Hotels has become a beloved homegrown brand, celebrating the very best of Yorkshire hospitality.

Each hotel reflects the character of its surroundings. The Harrogate hotel, just minutes from the historic spa town centre, offers elegant settings ideal for leisure and weddings.

Bradford's location stands proudly on the edge of the city, combining convenience with rich heritage. Meanwhile Huddersfield, set against the backdrop of the Pennines, is a favourite for conferences and business retreats.

Cedar Court's commitment to quality is evident in its customer-focused service, stylish interiors, and its dedication to supporting the local community.

Guests enjoy locally sourced menus, thoughtful amenities, and a team that goes the extra mile - whether you're staying for business, pleasure, or a special occasion.

Beyond just a hotel group, Cedar Court is proudly Yorkshire.

The team champions regional partnerships, local suppliers, and initiatives that give back. This is why we are proud sponsors of the Business Power, Empowering Women Awards alongside the Asian Express.

Cedar Court Hotels offer more than just a place to stay - they provide a true taste of Yorkshire, with a warm welcome and lasting impression.

With three convenient locations across Yorkshire, in Bradford, Harrogate and Huddersfield, each one of the Cedar Court hotels are perfectly positioned for you to discover this great county; whether you're seeking a relaxing break, a delicious meal in one of your fabulous restaurants, a venue with conference facilities, a team building day out, a wedding venue or a weekend adventure with the family.

Find out more: cedarcourthotels.co.uk



BIG SPACES for BIG MOMENTS *at Cedar Court Bradford*

DISCOVER YOUR PERFECT SPACE TODAY AT: WWW.CEDARCOURTHOTELS.CO.UK/BIGSPACES

For more information email our team at events.bradford@cedarcourthotels.co.uk or call **01274 406 606**

When three brothers opened their first restaurant in Shipley in 1977, they couldn't have imagined it would one day become one of Yorkshire's most successful and iconic restaurant groups.

The Aagrah Group, founded by the late Haji Mohammed Sabir MBE, Zafar Iqbal, and Mohammed Aslam MBE, DL, has become the pride of Yorkshire, and as a multi-award-winning brand is celebrated for its authentic Asian cuisine and pioneering spirit.

With no background in hospitality, the three brothers originally worked in textiles and transport.

The idea was born from a deep love of their mother and grandmother's home-cooked recipes.

Their goal was simple: to bring the rich, traditional flavours of their family kitchen

to the people of Bradford.

Yet success didn't come easily. Mr Aslam recalls discouraging his brother from continuing after opening Aagrah Shipley, but everything changed when he came to help in person.

"I began prepping food and observing the chef. That's when my passion for food began," he says.

That passion sparked a journey of growth, excellence, and innovation.

But beyond accolades, Aagrah's real achievement lies in revolutionising the UK curry scene.

From the start, Aagrah rejected the "one-sauce-fits-all" model.

"We used only fresh ingredients and hand-blended our spices," Mr Aslam explains.

"We moved away from pre-made sauces, which were common in curry houses back then."

This commitment to authenticity and quality set them apart - and continues to do so today.

Beyond restaurants, Aagrah has catered for national events, launched supermarket product lines, and hosted Bollywood stars during the IIFA Awards in 2007. Their masterclasses and celebrity clientele further cement their cultural influence.

Looking to the future, Aslam is optimistic. "Our sons and nephews have been with us from a young age. It's now their time. They're already preparing for further expansion. The legacy continues."

Aagrah's story is not just one of culinary success - it's a testament to family, ambition, and the transformative power of food.

**Visit www.aagrah.com
to find out more.**

AAGRAH

restaurants | event catering

Shipley • Garforth • Leeds City • Midpoint • Wakefield



www.aagrah.com

In an age where fragrance has become a personal signature and a symbol of cultural connection, Scent Salim has carved out an extraordinary niche, blending the richness of Arabian tradition with modern accessibility.

Founded in 2010 by Ilyas Salim, what began as a small office operation in Leeds has grown into one of the UK's most respected names in luxury perfumery, with a global customer base.

At the heart of the brand lies a deep legacy - over 70 years of family expertise in the art of fragrance production and trading.

This heritage, combined with Ilyas Salim's passion for perfumery (which began at the age of 13), has shaped a business built not just on product, but on purpose.

Scent Salim was created to fill a clear gap in the UK market: authentic, high-quality Arabian

perfumes and oud oils that are both luxurious and affordable.

From the very beginning, the response was overwhelmingly positive. One of their earliest high-profile clients was a venue, which began using Scent Salim's oud in prayer rooms, a seal of approval that cemented the brand's reputation for quality and authenticity.

What sets Scent Salim apart is the sheer depth and diversity of its offerings. With over 500 unique scent blends - from earthy ouds and sweet musks to floral and spicy notes, every bottle tells a story.

Best-selling oils like Amber Oud, Cherry Oud, and Mexican Oud are loved for their complexity and longevity. The brand's signature Heritage Collection includes premium blends like Musk of Kashmir, and curated discovery sets allow customers to sample and explore their perfect scent.

But it's not just about selling

perfumes, it's about guiding customers through a sensory journey.

In-store fragrance specialists provide tailored consultations, helping individuals find scents that align with their personality and lifestyle. This commitment to service, paired with their accessible price points, has made Scent Salim a trusted destination for perfume enthusiasts of all backgrounds.

With worldwide shipping, eco-conscious packaging, and a presence at global expos, Scent Salim is more than a fragrance brand - it's a cultural bridge. From Leeds to Lahore, London to Dubai, Ilyas Salim's vision continues to flourish. Scent Salim proves that true luxury doesn't need to be exclusive - it just needs to be experienced.

Visit
www.scentsalim.com
for more information.

SCENT SALIM

FINE ARABIAN SCENTS

Imagine over 1,000 scents with inspiration and ingredients taken from traditional Arabian sources and blended in a way that combines East and West.

UK'S NO1
PERFUMERY
AND OUD
SPECIALIST



Experience the Arabian and western scent fusion www.scentsalim.com

HQ- Main Store: Clock buildings, Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 2SH

E:mail: sales@scentsalim.com **Web:** www.scentsalim.com

Follow us: TikTok / Facebook / Instagram / Snapchat / YouTube

Also visit us - Leeds Road, Bradford, BD3 9LY.

Cheetamhill, Manchester, M8 5EL. Batley Plaza, WF17 5DR

Outstanding Woman in Arts, Media & Culture



Shanaz Gulzar

Creative Director of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture

Shanaz is an acclaimed artist, producer, and presenter leading the ambitious Bradford 2025 cultural programme. Her work reflects the district's rich heritage, diversity, and creativity. With a career spanning visual arts, film, theatre, and media, she has worked

with Manchester International Festival and presented BBC shows like Yorkshire Walks. Formerly Chair of Bradford 2025, she collaborates locally and globally to shape a bold, inclusive vision of Bradford on the world's cultural stage.



Sara Daniel

Publicity Lead for Bradford Festival Choral Society

Sara is a trustee and publicity lead for Bradford Festival Choral Society, championing accessible, uplifting choral music. She drives efforts to grow audiences and membership while supporting inclusive programming that blends tradition with contemporary

voices. Her outreach includes work with The Anchor Project and Bradford Friendship Choir. She helps provide subsidised access, child-friendly resources, and quiet spaces, as the choir nears its 170th season.



Nabeela Ahmed

Writer, Multilingual Poet, Producer & Educator

Nabeela's work celebrates culture, language, and community. Her poetry collection 'From Kashmir to Yorkshire' launched at Bradford Literature Festival. She hosts 'Bradford Writes' and curates the UK's only public Pahari

Mushaira. Featured on BBC's Word of Mouth, she's led workshops for major literary organisations, exhibited widely, and contributed to Bradford 2025. Nabeela is currently writing a novel and co-translating Saif ul-Malook.



SongGeet

Women's Ensemble

SongGeet is Yorkshire's pioneering South Asian Women's Ensemble, celebrating South Asia's rich musical heritage through powerful performances and community engagement. Formed to empower women from diverse

backgrounds, the choir blends traditional and contemporary music, fostering unity and cultural expression. They've performed at major events including the King's Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle.

Businesswoman of the Year



Amberine Nawaz

Founder/CEO - Pink Ladies Ltd

Amberine leads a groundbreaking initiative empowering women as drivers in a male-dominated industry, providing safe, reliable transport for women, children, and vulnerable people.

Through Pink Ladies, she creates safe spaces. Her work challenges societal norms and transforms lives, making her a powerful force for inclusion, empowerment, and lasting community change.



Dally Kaur

Director - Ideas That Work (IDEAS)

As a director of IDEAS, Dally is a creative force behind impactful design, print, web, and marketing solutions that drive real results. Beyond business, she is a passionate

change-maker, regularly fundraising for charities and advocating for causes close to her heart, including children's welfare, fertility awareness, and cancer support.



Prity Farooq

Health & Beauty Practitioner

Prity opened her salon in 2005, and her business evolved from Ayurvedic treatments to advanced medical-grade therapies.

In 2013, Prity launched her own skincare line. 15% of her business

earnings are donated to charities abroad. Locally, she supports mental health initiatives and homeless communities across the UK.

During the pandemic, she supported NHS and police through charity work.



Rukhsana Siddique

Proprietor Crossley Cars

Rukhsana transformed her family's transport business after the sudden loss of her brother in 2020. In a male-dominated industry, she rebuilt the company and now operates Halifax's

largest private hire fleet, managing 135 drivers. A devoted mother of three, she balances entrepreneurship with community service, volunteering regularly for the local causes.



Asma Tariq

CEO Design Quarter

Asma founded her business in 2005, which was born from a close friendship and a shared passion for fashion. After retail success locally, Asma and her team began sourcing exclusive collections from Pakistan,

including bridal wear. From their first humble studio to their show-stopping boutique, their journey is the epitome of hard work and growth. Asma also supports marginalised women through local community work.

Entrepreneur of the Year



Hannah Din
CEO Thrive Social Capital CIC

Hannah leads Forbes Collective Ltd, Thrive Social CIC, and serves as Trade & Investment Director for Yorkshire and Humber at the Pakistan British Business Council. Her journey began at the New York Stock Exchange and spans

ventures in hospitality and finance. Now focused on supporting marginalised communities, she chairs the South Yorkshire Women's Network, sits on the NHS ICB VCSE Board, and works with UN Women UK.



Elena Nikolova
CEO of Muslim Travel Girl

Elena is the award-winning founder of one of the West's leading Muslim travel platforms, empowering over two million Muslims to travel confidently without compromising faith. The UK's first female Chartered Islamic

Marketer (CIMA), she holds degrees in International Business and Islamic Finance. She's been featured by the New York Times, BBC, and Lonely Planet. Elena proves that faith and ambition can thrive together.



Lois Monks
Director at JWP Solicitors

Lois specialises in care law, representing children to ensure their voices shape decisions about their futures. She founded free legal clinics with local children's centres and Together Women, offering vital support to vulnerable women facing abuse

and poverty. Lois also co-led the launch of JWP's Bradford office, expanding access to legal services in an underserved area. Her work champions justice, dignity, and support individuals in challenging circumstances.



Binny Chadha
Yoga Practitioner

Binny is a 500-hour RYT advanced yoga teacher accredited by Yoga Alliance. Blending neuroscience and spirituality, her teachings unite mind, body, and soul. Rooted in oral tradition, she integrates yoga, meditation, mantra, Ayurveda,

and holistic nutrition. With a strong background in natural sciences, Binny bridges ancient wisdom with modern science, guiding transformative journeys that bring balance, healing, and depth to every session.

Professional of the Year



Dr Farakh Sadiq
GP Partner

Dr Sadiq has over 27 years' experience at an inner-city Leeds practice and is dedicated to education, teaching generations of medical students and serving on the Leeds Medical Committee. Passionate about community support, she volunteers at

fundraisers and helps distribute food parcels. She also runs a women's well-being group, offering a safe space for connection and discussion. Farakh's work blends healthcare, education, and community care with compassion and commitment.



Dr Saira Ali FLI FRSA
President Elect of the Landscape Institute & Team Leader at CBMDC

Saira has 30 years of award-winning experience in landscape architecture and urban regeneration. A bold leader, she transforms cities through inclusive, climate-resilient design that promotes biodiversity. A passionate advocate for diversity,

she mentors emerging talent and speaks globally on sustainable placemaking. Her voluntary roles include the Yorkshire Regional Flood Committee, National Trust's Advisory Board, and the Children's Heart Surgery Fund.



Heena Mahmood
Digital Health Consultant/Author

Heena Mahmood, a trained physiotherapist, has led UK centres in trauma care and pioneered digital innovations, including the first AI-use in stroke services. Passionate about racial equity, her acclaimed book 'Minority Ethnic

Voices in Healthcare Professions' earned national praise. Committed to global impact, Heena recently delivered aid to refugees in Jordan, reflecting her deep dedication to health equity and social justice worldwide.



Maryam Mir
Barrister

Maryam is a compassionate and fearless advocate with wide-ranging criminal law experience. Known for detailed preparation and strong results, she has worked on high-profile cases, including challenging US drone strikes and

UN sanctions. Maryam is passionate about supporting ethnic minority women in law and excels in appeals and complex criminal defence. In June 2020 she was part of a team who developed the approved hijab for Courts across the UK.

Outstanding Woman in Public Service



Lilly Butt

Head of Wellbeing and Partnerships, Leeds University Union

Lilly Butt leads initiatives that promote student welfare through inclusive support and vital partnerships. She focuses on access to basic needs, mental health, safety, and wellbeing. Lilly also co-chairs the West Yorkshire Police Independent Advisory Group on

Violence Against Women and Girls, shaping policies to combat gender-based violence. Committed to equity, she bridges community voices with policing to drive meaningful change and protect vulnerable groups.



Dr Saghira Sharif

Principal Genetic Counsellor NHS Trust

Dr Sharif developed a groundbreaking framework to reduce disparities and improve diversity in genomic medicine. She collaborates with Born in Bradford, PHE, Genomics England, and UK Public Policy Projects to shape healthcare policies and

pathways. Internationally, she advances genomics education and establishes services in Pakistan and the Middle East, driving equitable genomic care worldwide and transforming the field through her commitment.



Tanz Rayaz

Lead Nurse NHS

As Lead Nurse for Nursing, Midwifery, and Allied Health Professional Education, Tanz provides strategic leadership in workforce development. She oversees education planning, delivery, and quality assurance, ensuring alignment with healthcare

needs. Tanz fosters continuous learning and professional excellence. She collaborates with local communities to inspire future healthcare professionals, building a diverse, sustainable workforce through innovation, passion, and teamwork.



Dr Saira Ali FLI FRSA

President Elect of the Landscape Institute & Team Leader at CBMDC

Saira has 30 years of award-winning experience in landscape architecture and urban regeneration. A bold leader, she transforms cities through inclusive, climate-resilient design that promotes biodiversity. A passionate advocate for diversity,

she mentors emerging talent and speaks globally on sustainable placemaking. Her voluntary roles include the Yorkshire Regional Flood Committee, National Trust's Advisory Board, and the Children's Heart Surgery Fund.

Outstanding Woman in Education



Shazia Younas

Director at A2Z Learning Centre

Shaziya Younas is head of a community hub supporting low-income families, SEND children, and those seeking education or employment. Partnering with schools and organisations, A2Z provides free events, training, and

flexible opportunities for families. Under Shaziya's leadership, over 150 women have accessed employment, education, or training. Her work transforms lives, builds confidence, and uplifts communities across Bradford.



Rizwana Mahmood MBE

Headteacher/Educational Consultant

Rizwana is a transformational educational leader with over a decade of success turning around underperforming schools. Her current school ranks in the top 1–3% nationally and is recognised by the Department for Education as a beacon of

excellence. Awarded an MBE in 2024 for services to education, she champions equity, innovation, and social mobility. Rizwana co-created initiatives like Oxbridge Minds and Operation GenZ, inspiring academic aspirations and safeguarding vulnerable youth.



Saeeqa Rehman

Lead Pastoral Manager

Saeeqa Rehman began her journey at Belle Vue Girls' Academy in 2009 as a Teaching Assistant, and is now a key member of the Senior Leadership Team, championing attendance, wellbeing, and inclusion. Saeeqa expertly navigates complex challenges to remove barriers,

ensuring students thrive and teachers can focus on teaching. Dedicated to student welfare, she works closely with young women to foster a safe, nurturing environment where every student is supported to grow into confident, empowered future citizens.



Nabeela Ahmed

Writer, Multilingual Poet, Producer & Educator

Nabeela's work celebrates culture, language, and community. Her poetry collection *From Kashmir to Yorkshire* launched at Bradford Literature Festival. She hosts *Bradford Writes* and curates the UK's only public Pahari

Mushaira. Featured on BBC's *Word of Mouth*, she's led workshops for major literary organisations, exhibited widely, and contributed to Bradford 2025. Nabeela is currently writing a novel and co-translating Saif ul-Malook.

Empowerment Champion of the Year



Dr Sabah Achhide

Director of (MEMEC) CIC

The Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Community (MEMEC) empowers refugee and migrant communities through education, advocacy, and trauma-informed support. Led by Dr. Sabah Achhide, a neuropsychologist specialising

in adolescent trauma, MEMEC delivers ESOL, IT, safeguarding, and resilience programmes. Her work reflects a deep commitment to equity, dignity, and inclusive community transformation through both academic expertise and compassionate leadership.



Milly Rohman

Project Coach – ISSE

Milly works with Inspire Support Sports Empowerment, empowering women and girls through sport and wellness. Inspired by her fertility journey, she specialises in motherhood wellness, focusing on infant loss, healing, and recovery. Since 2017,

she's led inclusive exercise sessions and revitalised community fitness with dance, bootcamps, and park workouts. Milly also coaches U16 girls' basketball alongside her daughters, promoting connection, confidence, and holistic wellbeing.



Sobiya Jawaid

Leadership Coach

Sobiya is a dynamic leadership coach and keynote speaker, known for empowering others through confidence and authenticity. As the first hijab-wearing Muslim black belt kickboxer to represent England at European level, she embodies resilience and barrier-

breaking courage. Working with global clients in film, finance, and healthcare, Sobiya champions inclusion, belonging, and fearless leadership, helping others unlock their potential and thrive personally and professionally.



Lilly Butt

Chair of West Yorkshire Police's VAWG Strategic Group

Lilly Butt leads initiatives that promote student welfare through inclusive support and vital partnerships. She focuses on access to basic needs, mental health, safety, and wellbeing. Lilly also co-chairs the West Yorkshire Police Independent Advisory

Group on Violence Against Women and Girls, shaping policies to combat gender-based violence. Committed to equity, she bridges community voices with policing to drive meaningful change and protect vulnerable groups.

Community Champion of the Year



Kaneez Khan MBE

Faith in Communities/Wellsprings Together

Kaneez chairs Wellsprings Together and leads efforts to promote interfaith and ethnic unity.

Her Covid-19 outreach shaped the national £25M Community Champions Programme, earning her an MBE in 2022 and the

Hubert Walter Award. She chairs VCSE Voices for Race Equity, is a Non-Executive Director at Leeds & York NHS Trust, and leads Primrose Consultancy, championing youth employment and inclusive governance.



Rifhat Malik MBE

Co-founder/CEO Give a Gift

Rifhat is a respected community leader with over 25 years' experience championing social justice. As Project Director at Give A Gift in Leeds, she supports refugees, asylum seekers, and disadvantaged families. She's helped raise over £250,000 for

children's charities and volunteers with international causes. A former trustee of Martin House Hospice, she also contributes to race equality and health networks. In 2023, Give A Gift received the King's Award for Voluntary Service.



Rizwana Mahmood MBE

Headteacher/Educational Consultant

Rizwana is a transformational educational leader with over a decade of success turning around underperforming schools. Her current school ranks in the top 1–3% nationally and is recognised by the Department for Education as a beacon of

excellence. Awarded an MBE in 2024 for services to education, she champions equity, innovation, and social mobility. Rizwana co-created initiatives like Oxbridge Minds and Operation GenZ, inspiring academic aspirations and safeguarding vulnerable youth.



Humera Khan

CEO of Happy Healthy You Bradford and Beyond

Humera heads a soul-led organisation promoting accessible health, movement, and connection across Bradford and beyond. Offering culturally sensitive wellbeing sessions and mindset

coaching, she supports those often excluded from mainstream services. Her compassionate, inclusive approach has earned national recognition, including the ITV National Diversity Award.

'Mover & Shaker' of the Year



Humma Nizami

CEO of Race Equality Network

Humma's leadership at REN, a Bradford-based charity supporting over 80 grassroots groups, has earned the organisation national recognition through impactful projects like Root Out Racism and the Covid-19 Prevention Project.

A passionate advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion, Humma has secured multiple awards and presented REN's CERD report to the United Nations in Geneva, amplifying local voices on a global stage.



Freda Shafi

Food author/Chef/Entrepreneur

Freda is an award-winning artist, author, food editor, and entrepreneur with nearly 30-years in the creative industries. With a Master's in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins, she champions underrepresented voices in the arts. A self-taught chef, Freda curates

menus for Yorkshire restaurants and has cooked as a 'guest chef' at prestigious venues like Harvey Nichols and Dakota Hotel. In 2023, she published her first cookbook and novel, blending storytelling with food and art.



Hannah Din

CEO of Thrive Social/MD of Forbes Collective Ltd

Hannah leads Forbes Collective Ltd, Thrive Social CIC, and serves as Trade & Investment Director for Yorkshire and Humber at the Pakistan British Business Council. Her journey began at the New York Stock Exchange and spans

ventures in hospitality and finance. Now focused on supporting marginalised communities, she chairs the South Yorkshire Women's Network, sits on the NHS ICB VCSE Board, and works with UN Women UK.



Shanaz Gul

Director at The Heritage Cooking Company CIC

Shanaz is a values-driven leader with over 20 years' experience in the voluntary and community sector. Her work spans strategic leadership, women's leadership, youth development, and enterprise. She champions culturally rooted, community-led

solutions. Shanaz has influenced policy, mentored diverse leaders, and designed inclusive services—always grounded in compassion, lived experience, and purpose to help people overcome adversity and reach their full potential.

Young Achiever of the Year



Wania Ahmad

Member of Youth Parliament/Chair of Youth Select Committee

Even at 15, Wania embodies leadership through service, previously serving as Children's Mayor of Leeds. As Chair of the Youth Select Committee, she led a national inquiry into social media's impact on youth violence, producing a report now under government review. Passionate about amplifying youth voices, she volunteers with youth councils,

charities, and boards, organising events and initiatives addressing critical issues facing young people. Whether speaking in Parliament or working locally, Wania dedicates her time and energy to empower youth, believing they are not just the future but the present, deserving to be heard in decisions that shape their lives.



Kiran Hussain

Pharmacy Support Worker/Muslim Youth Forum Member

A young Muslim woman from Harehills, Kiran is passionately dedicated to supporting and uplifting her community. Her journey began unexpectedly but was shaped by inspiring, like-minded individuals who believed in her from the start. Over the last five years, Kiran has embraced volunteering, building

her confidence and skills which have given her opportunities to contribute to documentaries, podcasts, event hosting, and public speaking. Recognised for her impactful contributions, she remains committed to driving positive change and fostering community spirit.



Noor Afasa Jahangir

Poet/Project Assistant

Noor is a Project Assistant with Team Audiences at Bradford 2025, part of the Young Creatives programme blending paid work, placement, and learning. Currently placed at the Brontë Parsonage and working with Team Digital, Noor supports social media, community management, filming, presenting, and content creation. A passionate writer and performer,

Noor is also active in the local arts scene - crafting powerful poetry and monologues for political theatre. Balancing freelance creative work with voluntary roles, Noor brings energy, authenticity, and a deep commitment to cultural storytelling, using creativity to uplift voices and inspire connection across communities.

Influential Woman of the Year



Fatima Khan Shah

Mayor of WY Business Advisor & Mayor's Inclusivity Champion

Fatima is a nationally recognised leader, advising the Mayor and regional leaders on reducing inequalities. Named among HSJ's top 50 health leaders from ethnic minority backgrounds, Fatima is known for her work in public involvement, compassionate

leadership, and inclusion.

Her award-winning initiatives have shaped national policy, and she serves on several boards, hosts a podcast, and contributes to the NHS Assembly and The King's Fund.



Noor Ali

Senior Commercial Manager, P&B Foods Ltd

Noor Ali's journey from supermarket checkout to industry change-maker is nothing short of inspirational. She transformed UK retail by creating the world foods category, introducing cultural celebrations in-store, and championing diversity in powerful,

tangible ways.

Noor mentors women, businesses, students, and prisoners through her Noor's Den initiative. A passionate advocate for inclusion, she also serves as trustee for multiple organisations and charities.



Zohra Nazir

Bradford Stronger Together

Zohra leads advocacy through Bradford Stronger Together, a voluntary group supporting special needs families. Passionate about inclusion, she raises awareness and understanding of special educational needs across the community. Zohra has built a strong

SEND network that empowers parents, supports mental wellbeing, and boosts confidence. Her work creates safe, welcoming spaces for connection, friendship, and fun - making a lasting difference in the lives of families navigating numerous challenges.



Fatima Mejbil

Architectural Design Lead - FAUM Architecture

Fatima Mejbil is an internationally qualified architect in Bradford with over a decade of UK experience. After earning her Part III at RIBA North West, she led community-focused projects, including Bradford's 'Ramadan Pavilion' for UK City of Culture 2025. A

passionate EDI advocate, Fatima mentors emerging architects through Women in Architecture UK, lectures at the University of Bradford, contributes to Bradford's regeneration, and judges the Architects' Journal awards.



Empowering Women

Honouring and celebrating the best in Yorkshire!

BPA Empowering Women Awards
will announce recipients of two
commendation accolades on the night

- **Special Recognition**
- **Diversity Champion of the Year**

Sport Champion of the Year



Aqsa Mushtaq

International Football Player

Aqsa Mushtaq is a dynamic attacker known for creativity, pace, and precision. Playing as winger or attacking midfielder, she has competed professionally across Europe, including Lewes FC in England and Napoli Femminile in

Italy's Serie A, where she became the first player of Pakistani heritage. Now at OFI FC in Greece's Women's Super League, Aqsa represents Pakistan's National Team, inspiring South Asian women as a trailblazer in global football.



Kiran Matharu

Professional Golfer

Kiran is a professional golfer and the first Asian woman to represent Yorkshire, England, and Great Britain & Ireland in amateur golf. After becoming English Amateur Champion, she turned pro at 17 and spent 15-years on the Ladies

European Tour, winning the Ladies Tshwane Open in South Africa. Now a proud mother, She's passionate about inspiring the next generation and promoting greater diversity and inclusion in the world of golf.



Harleen Kaur

CEO of Club Ekta/Project Manager at Asian Sports Foundation

Harleen, a former elite martial artist and British Kickboxing Champion, was the first British Asian female to represent England at that level. She founded Club Ekta in Bradford to empower women through fitness and wellbeing. Harleen also leads

charitable projects in Punjab, India, using sport to support disadvantaged youth. Honoured as a Queen's Baton Bearer and NatWest Asian Sportswoman of the Year, she continues breaking barriers, mentoring future leaders, and inspiring change.



Halima Khan

EDI Consultant

Halima began as a sports coach in Bradford and now advises global organisations on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. Passionate about gender equality, she uses sport as a tool for social impact. In 2016, she launched the Bowling Out

Gender Inequality campaign at the House of Lords. Through Opening Boundaries, Halima delivers this initiative across the UK and internationally, including Kenya and Barbados, driving lasting cultural change through sport.

Excellence in the Legal Sector



Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE

Solicitor and Founder of SKB Law

With over 25 years' experience, Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE is the founder of SKB Law and a trailblazer in modern family law. Renowned for her compassionate, culturally aware, and innovative approach, she advises on divorce, children's matters, Islamic marriage/divorce, and international cases. Sarah hosts the acclaimed

Family Matters with Sarah podcast, ranked among the Top 10 Divorce Podcasts in the UK, and founded the SKB Law Academy, an award-winning mentoring initiative. She is also co-author of The Nikah Nama Handbook. Through fearless advocacy and fresh thinking, Sarah is reshaping the future of family law in the UK and beyond.



Asma Iqbal

Partner Corporate Recovery, Chadwick Lawrence LLP Solicitors

Asma Iqbal is a trailblazing solicitor and Partner at Chadwick Lawrence, known for her leadership in diversity, inclusion, and justice. She became the first Muslim female Insolvency Solicitor to chair the R3 Yorkshire Women's Committee and advises national and international bodies, including R3, the Insolvency Service UK, and INSOL International.

Asma gained national recognition

for representing whistleblower Azeem Rafiq in a landmark racism case against Yorkshire County Cricket Club, sparking institutional change.

She sits on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Business Board, champions community inclusion, and supports women and disadvantaged youth through charities like One in a Million and the Women's Centre.



Samreen Akhtar

Barrister/Founder Aventus Chambers

Samreen Akhtar is a barrister and owner of Aventus Chambers, based in Huddersfield. The first in her family to attend university, she trained with the Crown Prosecution Service before specialising in criminal defence. Her client base spans the UK and UAE, and she is regularly ranked in The Legal 500 for legal excellence.

Passionate about representation and access, Samreen is a Social Mobility Advocate for the Bar Council and a Community Champion for the Yorkshire Champions Group, visiting schools and colleges to inspire the next generation of legal professionals and break down barriers to a career at the Bar.

Lifetime Achievement



Kama Melly KC
Deputy Head of Chambers

Ms. Melly is consistently recognised in the Legal 500, and Chambers and Partner's as a recommended silk. She's National Chair of the CBA's Rape & Serious Sexual Offences committee, member of the Bar Council, Governor of the Inns of Court College of Advocacy, a Recorder

of the Crown & Family Courts, Benchers of the Middle Temple, Chair of the Women's Forum of the North Eastern Circuit. She's helped with developing national training in respect of vulnerable witnesses for the legal profession, and the guide to Trauma Informed Advocacy.



Professor Adeeba Malik CBE, DL
Deputy Chief Executive QED Foundation

Professor Adeeba Malik CBE DL is Deputy Chief Executive of QED Foundation and the first ethnic minority woman High Sheriff of West Yorkshire (2024–25).

With over 33 years at QED, she champions disadvantaged communities and advises UK

government departments, including the Cabinet Office and Home Office. Adeeba is a trustee of Bradford 2025 and Visiting Professor at York St John University. Her services have been honoured with an MBE (2004) and CBE (2016).



Usha Parmar
CEO Sunrise Radio

Usha Parmar began as a teacher and later became a high-earning project manager before transforming Sunrise Radio (Yorkshire) into a respected voice for the Asian community.

Her leadership earned national recognition and numerous awards.

A tireless advocate for women's

rights, Asian youth, and social issues, Usha launched training initiatives and pioneered digital advancements.

She challenges cultural and gender barriers with vision, courage, and unwavering commitment, inspiring others through fearless leadership.



Nazreen Ahmed
Director at The Accounting Company Ltd

Nazreen Ahmed FCCA, FMAAT, FCMI has over 20 years' experience in accounting, finance, and business advisory. She leads a trusted practice offering bookkeeping, VAT, tax compliance, payroll, and strategic business advice. Supporting individuals and SMEs,

Nazreen delivers tailored, results-driven solutions focused on compliance and sustainable growth. Known for integrity, technical excellence, and commercial insight, she is a respected advisor dedicated to helping clients achieve long-term financial success.

You've got a business...

... We've got a strategy

Call to find out how make your business stand out from the crowd

- Free advice on your advertising needs
- Range of advertising and promotional options
- Packages to suit all budgets
- Sponsored business profile packages
- In-house design available
- Newsprint & Digital



Award-winning publications

Empowering South Asian communities since 2001

Telephone:

08703 608 606 • 07969 914 041

Email:

general.enquiry@asianexpress.co.uk



www.asianexpress.co.uk



AVENTUS CHAMBERS

*Expert legal advice and representation,
where you want and when you want*

Aventus Chambers can offer representation from the police station right through to any court appearances.

Specialisms:
Homicide
Terrorism
Violent Offences
Drugs
Fraud
Sexual Offences
Extradition
Motoring
Personal Injury
DIFC (United Arab Emirates)

Aventus Chambers accepts instructions both privately and under the Legal Aid scheme (subject to eligibility).



01484 218907



[ventuschambers.co.uk](https://www.ventuschambers.co.uk)



Finalists 2025



Empowering Women

Honouring and celebrating the best in Yorkshire!

Shanaz Gulzar. Sara Daniel. Nabeela Ahmed. SongGeet. Amberine Nawaz. Dally Kaur. Prity Farooq. Rukhsana Siddique. Asma Tariq. Hannah Din. Elena Nikolova. Lois Monks. Binny Chadha. Lilly Butt. Dr Farakh Sadiq. Dr Saira Ali. Heena Mahmood. Maryam Mir. Dr Saghira Sharif. Tanz Rayaz. Shazia Younas. Saeeqa Rehman. Rizwana Mahmood MBE. Nabeela Ahmed. Dr Sabah Achhide. Milly Rohman. Sobiya Jawaid. Kaneez Khan MBE. Rifhat Malik MBE. Humera Khan. Humma Nizami. Freda Shafi. Hannah Din. Shanaz Gul. Wania Ahmad. Kiran Hussain. Noor Afasa Jahangir. Fatima Khan Shah. Noor Ali. Zohra Nazir. Fatima Mejbil. Aqsa Mushtaq. Kiran Matharu. Harleen Kaur. Halima Khan. Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE. Asma Iqbal. Samreen Akhtar. Kama Melly KC. Rukhsana Siddique. Usha Parmar. Nazreen Ahmed. Shanaz Gulzar. Sara Daniel. Nabeela Ahmed. SongGeet. Amberine Nawaz. Dally Kaur. Prity Farooq. Professor Adeeba Malik CBE, DL. Asma Tariq. Hannah Din. Elena Nikolova. Lois Monks. Binny Chadha. Dr Farakh Sadiq. Dr Saira Ali. Heena Mahmood. Maryam Mir. Lilly Butt. Dr Saghira Sharif. Tanz Rayaz. Shazia Younas. Saeeqa Rehman. Rizwana Mahmood MBE. Nabeela Ahmed. Dr Sabah Achhide. Milly Rohman. Sobiya Jawaid. Kaneez Khan MBE. Rifhat Malik MBE. Humera Khan. Humma Nizami. Freda Shafi. Hannah Din. Shanaz Gul. Wania Ahmad. Kiran Hussain. Noor Afasa Jahangir. Fatima Khan Shah. Noor Ali. Zohra Nazir. Fatima Mejbil. Aqsa Mushtaq. Kiran Matharu. Harleen Kaur. Halima Khan. Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE. Asma Iqbal. Samreen Akhtar. Usha Parmar. Kama Melly KC. Professor Adeeba Malik CBE, DL. Nazreen Ahmed. Shanaz Gulzar. Sara Daniel. Nabeela Ahmed. SongGeet. Amberine Nawaz. Dally Kaur. Prity Farooq. Rukhsana Siddique. Asma Tariq. Hannah Din. Elena Nikolova. Lois Monks. Binny Chadha. Dr Farakh Sadiq. Dr Saira Ali. Heena Mahmood. Maryam Mir. Lilly Butt. Dr Saghira Sharif. Tanz Rayaz. Shazia Younas. Saeeqa Rehman. Rizwana Mahmood MBE. Nabeela Ahmed. Dr Sabah Achhide. Milly Rohman. Sobiya Jawaid. Kaneez Khan MBE. Rifhat Malik MBE. Humera Khan. Humma Nizami. Freda Shafi. Hannah Din. Shanaz Gul. Wania Ahmad. Kiran Hussain. Noor Afasa Jahangir. Fatima Khan Shah. Noor Ali. Zohra Nazir. Fatima Mejbil. Aqsa Mushtaq. Kiran Matharu. Harleen Kaur. Halima Khan. Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE. Asma Iqbal. Samreen Akhtar. Kama Melly KC. Usha Parmar. Nazreen Ahmed. Professor Adeeba Malik CBE, DL.



NEXT EVENT

BUSINESS POWER AWARDS 2025

Sunday, 12th October

Nominations open 15th July

Apply Online

www.businesspowerawards.co.uk