Business Power Awards 2026

Celebrating enterprise, championing ambition & honouring those who shape industries, strengthen communities and inspire generations.

Wednesday
25th November 2026

Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford

POWERED BY Asian Express Newspaper

#BPA2026 #BusinessPowerAwards

INTRODUCTION

What a difference a year makes.

Last year, as Asian Express celebrated 25 years of championing Yorkshire's businesses, we took a bold step. After profiling more than 6,000 businesses over a quarter of a century, we decided it was time to take that recognition from page to stage.

The response to our inaugural Business Power Awards was extraordinary. The nominations, the stories, the packed room and the conversations that followed confirmed what we had long believed: The business community deserved a platform that truly belonged to it.

And the momentum hasn't stopped there.

Our BPA Empowering Women Awards have gone down a storm, with both last year's and this year's celebrations showcasing remarkable women from across the professional spectrum.

More importantly, the recognition has grown into something lasting. A network of 38 accomplished women, brought together through mentorship, collaboration and mutual support, has given rise to BPA Lionesses CIC - turning an awards platform into a movement for opportunity and empowerment.

But beyond the celebrations, it's been another demanding year for businesses.

Rising costs, squeezed margins, recruitment pressures and economic uncertainty continue to test even the most determined entrepreneurs. Independent businesses, in particular, are navigating challenges that demand resilience, ingenuity and, increasingly, the support of others.

We've continued to tell the stories of grafters and go-getters. Family enterprises built over generations. Young entrepreneurs taking their first risks. Established businesses reinventing themselves. People creating jobs, investing locally and refusing to stand still.

Their stories remind us that success rarely happens in isolation.

We need established businesses opening doors for newcomers, experienced professionals sharing knowledge, and communities supporting the enterprises on their doorstep.

Collaboration isn't simply good networking. It is how we build a stronger, more inclusive and resilient regional economy. Because when one business succeeds, the opportunity should extend beyond its own doors.

Tonight, we celebrate achievement. But our greater ambition is to build connections that endure long after the applause.

To our finalists, sponsors, partners and supporters, thank you for being part of this journey. We have incredible talent. Together, we have the power to take it further.

Andleeb Hanif
Chair, Business Power Awards
Co-Founder & Editor, Asian Express Newspaper

#26Years | #AsianExpress | #BusinessPowerAwards
#BPA | #PowerCollective | #InclusiveGrowth

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

JANAN

JANAN.COM

Regal

Blacks

WORLDWIDE FOODS

HALAL SUPERMARKET

Official Media Partner

Asian Express Newspaper

MIDPOINT

IMPERIAL KITCHEN

KINGSMAN

SOLICITORS

AKBAR'S

KING OF CURRY

RANI'S FOODS

SEKHON GROUP

OF COMPANIES

SIGNATURE MALL

Business Power Awards 2026

"Honouring and celebrating Enterprise, Leadership & Innovation."

abu bakr

BPA LIONESSES

MY PESHAWAR

KORT

Charity Partner

IDEAL CARPETS & FURNITURE

LEEDS LARGEST INDEPENDENT CARPET & FURNITURE STORE

BPA EMPOWERING women AWARDS


J. BY
JANAN
FRAGRANCES
FRAGRANCES FOR ANY OCCASION
JANANFRAGRANCES.COM
FOLLOW US ON


JANAN
WOMENS - MENS - KIDS - BRIDAL - JEWELLERY - FRAGRANCES
BRADFORD - LONDON - LUTON - BIRMINGHAM
LEICESTER - MANCHESTER - GLASGOW
JANAN.COM
FOLLOW US ON



Janan Group: From Bradford Roots to a Leading Name in British Asian Retail

From a single store in Bradford in 2011 to a growing retail empire spanning the UK and Europe, Janan Group has become one of the most recognisable names in South Asian fashion retail. Built on ambition, determination and a deep understanding of its customers, the Group has transformed the way South Asian fashion is presented and experienced on the British high street.

Today, Janan operates approximately 20 stores across the UK, with a presence in major cities including Manchester, Birmingham and London. Alongside its expanding retail network, the Group has developed a strong online presence, reaching customers across the UK and internationally. Its continued investment in retail destinations, customer experience and digital platforms reflects a business that is constantly looking ahead.

At the heart of Janan's success is its ability to bring together traditional South Asian fashion and contemporary retail. From everyday clothing to luxury occasion wear, bridal collections and fragrances, the Group has built a diverse offering that appeals to customers across generations. Its focus on quality, choice and customer service has helped establish Janan as a trusted name within British Asian communities.

The Group also owns and operates J. (Junaid Jamshed) stores across the UK and Europe, bringing one of Pakistan's most recognised fashion brands to international customers. This has further strengthened Janan's position within the industry and demonstrates its ability to develop and manage established brands across multiple markets.

Behind this growth are brothers Asif and Asghar Khan, whose shared vision has shaped Janan from its earliest days. Asif Khan, CEO and Managing Director, brought his experience in commercial banking at HSBC into the retail sector, leading the Group's commercial strategy, expansion and brand development. Asghar Khan, an experienced entrepreneur with a background in jewellery retail, has been instrumental in developing the Group's international operations, sourcing and manufacturing activities in Pakistan. Together, they have built a business that continues to grow while remaining firmly connected to its Bradford roots.

Beyond commercial success, Janan's contribution to employment and the wider economy is equally significant. With approximately 350 employees across its UK and international operations, the Group continues to create opportunities, support livelihoods and invest in the communities in which it operates.

Looking ahead, Janan Group remains focused on further expansion, strengthening its brands and investing in the future of retail. What began as a family ambition has grown into a substantial international business, demonstrating how cultural heritage, entrepreneurial vision and a commitment to excellence can create lasting success.

For Janan, the journey is far from over.

THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE 2022

Regal



Proud sponsors of

Business Power Awards

AVAILABLE IN LEADING RETAILERS & INDEPENDENT STORES NATIONWIDE

Order your favourite products online now!

www.shopatregal.com

A team of 33 Partners & over 240 colleagues providing expert legal advice with a personal approach.

Behind every successful business is a story of ambition, determination, and people who make things happen. At Blacks, it's these stories that inspire us.

We're proud to sponsor the Business Power Awards 2026, celebrating the individuals and businesses making a real difference across our region. From entrepreneurs bringing fresh ideas to life to established businesses reaching new heights, Yorkshire is home to an inspiring business community, and we're delighted to be part of celebrating its success.

As a leading law firm with offices in Leeds and London, we understand that building a successful business takes more than a great idea. It takes hard work, resilience, and the right people around you. That's where we come in.

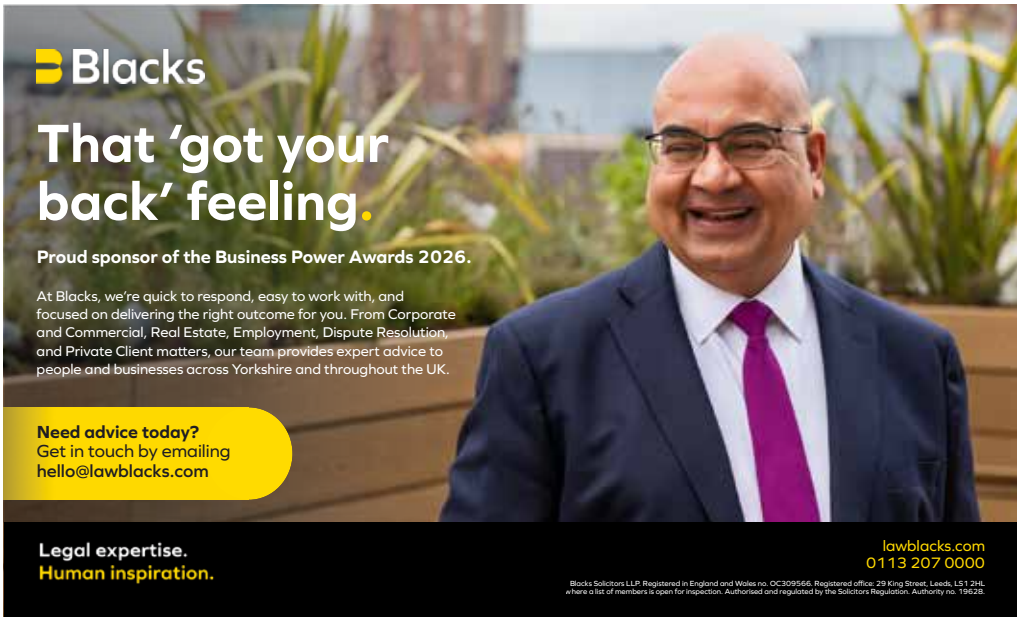
Our team of 33 Partners and over 240 colleagues work with businesses and individuals across Yorkshire and the UK, providing expert legal advice with a personal approach. We take the time to understand your ambitions, tackle challenges together, and help you move forward with confidence.

This year, we won Law Firm of the Year: Medium at the Yorkshire Legal Awards, a fantastic achievement for our team. We've also retained our Leading Firm status in the Legal 500 and are also proud to have been named Yorkshire's most recommended law firm, reflecting the relationships we've built and the trust our clients place in us.

These achievements are about more than recognition. They're a reflection of the people we work with, the relationships we value, and our commitment to delivering the best outcomes we can.

To everyone celebrating at this year's Business Power Awards, congratulations. Your ambition, achievements, and contribution to our business community are something to be proud of. We look forward to seeing what you achieve next.

Legal expertise. Human inspiration.



Al Halal Worldwide Foods - Britain's largest ethnic supermarket chain

Founded in 1977, Al Halal Worldwide Foods has grown from a single community store into the UK's largest ethnic supermarket chain, with multiple branches in key cities such as Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, Rochdale and Oldham.

For nearly five decades, Worldwide has been the trusted destination for South Asian, Middle Eastern and African-Caribbean grocery - from fresh halal meat and vibrant produce to an unrivalled selection of world foods under one roof.

The brand's national reach has expanded through a landmark collaboration with Iceland Foods, where customers can now find Worldwide Foods concession stores in more than 280 Iceland stores across the UK and even in the Channel Islands.

A fresh partnership with SPAR further underlines that momentum, with the first dedicated ethnic food section already live in Preston.

The group also operates from its e-commerce website, called www.DesiMe.co.uk, from which the company can offer next day delivery to anywhere in the UK.

Pervez Alam commented: "The recipe of Worldwide Foods success is very simple. We strive to make the best quality halal foods from around the world accessible to our customers, at the best possible price.

"Our aim is to provide a seamless shopping experience for customers wishing to stock up on halal groceries in the same way as the mainstream supermarkets do."

The next 12 months promise to be the most exciting yet. New stores are set to open in Ingleby Road, Keighley and Huddersfield, deepening the Worldwide footprint in the heart of Yorkshire.

Customers can also shop the full range online at www.desime.co.uk & enjoy nationwide home delivery — bringing Worldwide Foods straight to your door.

Serving Communities Since 1977
www.worldwidefoods.co.uk | www.desime.co.uk



FIND WORLDWIDE FOODS
IN OVER 280 ICELAND STORES
ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Iceland

3rd generation of a pioneering British Asian hospitality family returns to the venue it built in 2009, with bold new vision

Midpoint Imperial Kitchen marks the return of one of the North's pioneering British Asian hospitality families to the building they built in 2009, with a new identity and a story half a century in the making. And it all began with a seven-year-old boy.

The restaurant's overhaul is the vision of Yousef Mahmood, grandson of the late Mohammad Sabir MBE, founder of the Aagrah restaurant group and a pioneer of British Asian hospitality since the 1970s.

For Yousef, this is more than a rebrand. It is a return to his grandfather's standards and the act of kindness that first set the family on its hospitality journey.

Two tables, one house

Midpoint Imperial Kitchen operates two dining formats under one roof, each with its own philosophy.

Everyman's Table embodies the promise of exceptional food, and a warm welcome inspired by the great open kitchens of the past. Flame-grilled lamb chops arrive sizzling from the counter.

Samosa chaat is freshly assembled before diners, while much-loved slow-cooked curries make their return. A frozen yoghurt bar adds a refreshing finish, alongside three signature house lassis.

The soon-to-launch Emperor's Table elevates dining. Inspired by historic imperial kitchens, where chefs from across the world presented their finest creations to royalty.

This intimate à la carte experience celebrates culinary craftsmanship. At its heart are treasured family signatures: Nihari simmered overnight, Karahi Gosht perfected in an iron pan and Chicken Tikka Masala prepared with care.

The setting is refined, the atmosphere intimate and the philosophy simple: every guest deserves to dine like an Emperor.

Yousef Mahmood said: "This restaurant exists because a seven-year-old boy refused to let his father give up. That fact sits at the heart of everything we are trying to build here.

"But the spirit is the one my grandfather began with — welcoming everyone who walks in with warmth and seriousness, and knowing that we are here because a kindness was once shown to us."



Kingsman Solicitors is a specialist criminal defence firm with a proven track record of successfully representing individuals under investigation and defending clients facing criminal charges across the United Kingdom.

At the heart of Kingsman Solicitors' approach is the belief that every client deserves care, attention, and a robust defence. Each case is approached with thorough preparation, legal expertise, and a personal commitment to achieving the best possible outcome.

The team prides itself on treating every client with dignity and respect, safeguarding their rights at every stage of proceedings. This ethos has helped the firm develop a strong reputation, with a significant proportion of new instructions coming through recommendations from satisfied clients and their families.

The firm's expertise spans the full spectrum of criminal law. Its lawyers are experienced in defending cases involving murder, manslaughter, serious assault, firearms offences, drugs conspiracies, sexual offences, white-collar crime, and complex fraud. Kingsman Solicitors is also well-versed in handling multi-defendant trials and cases that attract national attention.

Their involvement in numerous high-profile cases has cemented their reputation as formidable advocates, able to navigate the most complex and demanding areas of criminal litigation.

What sets Kingsman Solicitors apart is its combination of energy, determination, and advocacy skills with a client-first ethos. The firm's barristers and solicitor advocates work tirelessly to prepare each case, drawing on expert evidence and leaving no detail overlooked. Their approach is rigorous yet compassionate, ensuring clients not only receive technical excellence in representation but also support during what is often the most challenging time in their lives.

Whether representing individuals in Magistrates' Court, defending complex trials in the Crown Court, or advising during police investigations, the firm's focus remains constant: protecting clients' rights and delivering justice.

With its roots firmly in criminal defence, Kingsman Solicitors stands today as a highly respected practice, defined by integrity, commitment, and an unshakeable dedication to its clients. Its success is measured not only by the outcomes it achieves but by the trust it inspires, making Kingsman a leading name in criminal defence across the UK.

KINGSMAN
SOLICITORS

BEEN ARRESTED OR UNDER INVESTIGATION?
CALL THE EXPERTS...

We provide expert legal representation in serious and complex criminal cases nationwide, including:

- **Murder/Homicide**
- **Drugs Conspiracies**
- **Firearms Offences**
- **Serious Violence**
- **Serious Sexual Offences**
- **High Value Fraud/Dishonesty**
- **Money Laundering**

87 Manningham Lane | Bradford | BD1 3BN
mail@kingsmansolicitors.com | 01274 77 88 11
www.kingsmansolicitors.com

THE LAW SOCIETY ACCREDITED Criminal Litigation

Authorised & Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority



JABRAN HUSSAIN
Serious & Complex Crime Lawyer

Akbar's: A Legacy of Ambition, Family and a Vision for the Future

Affectionately known as the "King of Curry", Shabir was an entrepreneur who dared to think differently. His distinctive approach to hospitality, generous portions, vibrant atmosphere and iconic hanging naan helped establish Akbar's as a dining experience recognised across the country. Yet his achievements were about more than food; they reflected his ambition to build a lasting business, create opportunities and leave a meaningful legacy for future generations.

Following his passing in October 2024, that responsibility now rests with his three daughters, Sameena, Samiara and Iram, who are committed to carrying their father's vision forward while guiding the family's business interests into a new era.

The future is not simply about preserving what Shabir created, but building upon it. Akbar's remains at the heart of that ambition, with opportunities to strengthen its established presence, explore new markets and bring its much loved flavours to an even wider audience.

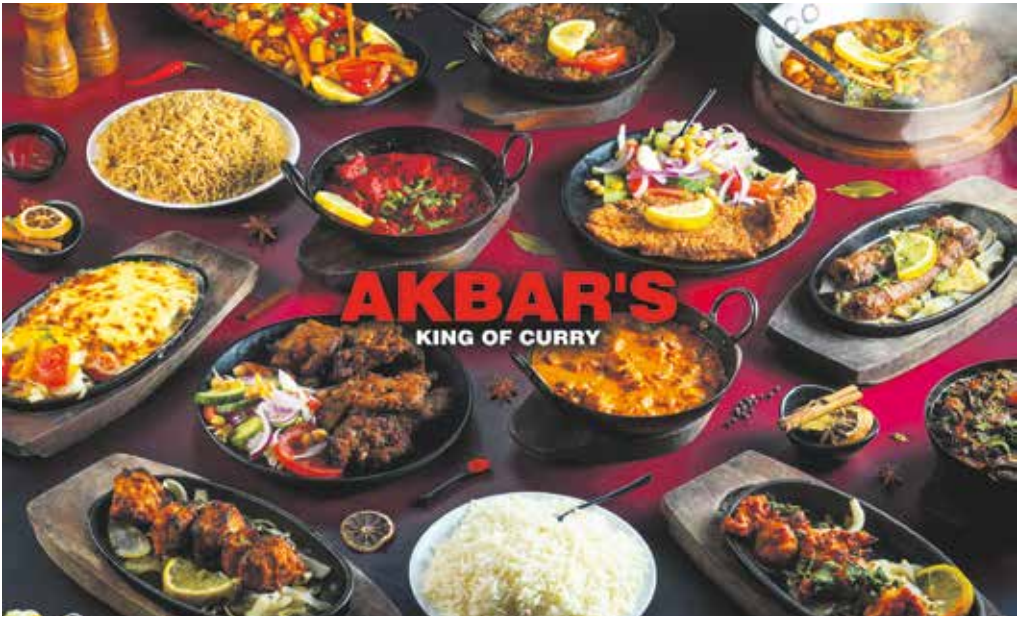
Alongside Akbar's, the family's wider portfolio reflects an entrepreneurial spirit that reaches beyond the restaurant table. Durrani's and Shabir's Flavours represent further opportunities to develop distinctive brands, diversify the family's interests and create new avenues for growth.

Equally significant is the launch of the Shabir Hussain Foundation, established in his memory. The Foundation represents an important extension of his legacy, reflecting the belief that success should be measured not only in commercial achievements but also in the positive difference made to people and communities.

As his daughters look to the future, their challenge and opportunity are to combine the values that defined their father ambition, resilience, innovation and generosity with fresh ideas and modern leadership.

Shabir Hussain built a business that began on one Bradford street and reached far beyond it. His daughters now have the opportunity to shape the next chapter: protecting his legacy, expanding the family's business interests and ensuring that the name he built continues to inspire future generations with the Shabir Hussain Foundation due to launch officially in April 2027.

His journey laid the foundations. His daughters will help determine how far that vision can go.



THE WEDDING CARD Company

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP
FOR ALL YOUR WEDDING STATIONARY

WEDDING INVITES, MEHNDI INVITES, BARAAT INVITES, ZAMZAM BOTTLES, FAVOURS, NEOPOLITAN CHOCOLATES, CONTRACTS, STICKERS, JARS, MENUS, WAX STAMPS, WELCOME BOARDS

Plus much, much more...

THE WEDDING CARD COMPANY
141B WOODHEAD ROAD
BRADFORD
BD7 2BL

01274 952 060
INFO@THEWEDDINGCARDCO.CO.UK
WWW.THEWEDDINGCARDCO.CO.UK

People often call me the 'Samosa Lady'. It is a name I wear with pride, but there is so much more to the story than a samosa. Behind the products, the production facility and the growing business is a woman with a vision, determination and a belief that something built from the ground up can become something extraordinary.

Rani's Foods began with a simple ambition: to bring authentic South Asian flavours to more tables, while delivering quality, consistency and excellence. What started as an idea has developed into a growing food manufacturing and wholesale business, supplying supermarkets, wholesalers, caterers, wedding businesses and events.

The journey has been anything but straightforward. Building a business takes more than having a good product. It takes resilience, difficult decisions, financial commitment, long hours and the courage to keep going when things do not go to plan. From developing recipes and products to establishing production, building relationships and expanding distribution, every milestone has been earned through hard work.

Today, Rani's Foods continues to grow, with its own production facility, a range of frozen savouries and desserts, wholesale supply, event catering and white-label opportunities. My ambition is to build a recognised brand that stands for quality, professionalism and trust.

But for me, success has never been solely about business. It is about representation, creating opportunities and showing other women what is possible. My mother has been a huge influence on my values, teaching me the importance of strength, determination and staying true to myself.

As a woman in business, I want other women to understand that they do not need to wait for permission, perfect circumstances or somebody else's approval to chase their dreams. You can start small, make mistakes, learn as you go and still build something remarkable. Your circumstances do not have to define your future.

Winning Trailblazer of the Year is a milestone I will always be proud of. However, I see it as encouragement to keep pushing boundaries, rather than a destination.

So, yes, people may know me as the Samosa Lady, but my story is about much more than food. It is about ambition, resilience, leadership and proving that women can create, lead and build businesses on their own terms.



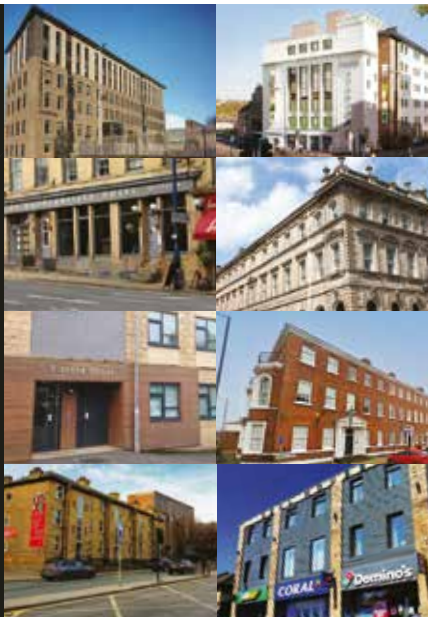
With a proud legacy spanning 53 years, the Sekhon Group stands as one of the most dynamic and visionary property development companies in the North of England. Headquartered in West Yorkshire, the Group has built a stellar reputation by breathing new life into historic and disused buildings—transforming 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.

NIRMAL SEKHON GROUP OF COMPANIES

53 YEARS IN BUSINESS

PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN THE NORTH

www.sekhongroup.co.uk



SIGNATURE MALL: THE ULTIMATE SOUTH ASIAN FASHION AND CULINARY DESTINATION

Located in the heart of Bradford, Signature Mall stands out as a premier retail and lifestyle destination, offering a sophisticated blend of high-end South Asian couture and a world-class dining experience. Designed for discerning shoppers and food enthusiasts alike, the mall seamlessly unites traditional elegance with modern luxury under one roof.

A premier hub of south asian fashion & fine jewellery

Signature Mall has firmly established itself as the flagship hub for iconic South Asian designer brands. Fashion lovers can explore exclusive collections from internationally renowned labels, including Hussain Rehar, Agha Noor, Shiffonz, and Batik. Whether you are searching for opulent bridal wear, intricate formal attire, or chic everyday pret, the retail offerings showcase unmatched craftsmanship and vibrant aesthetics.

Beyond luxury fashion clothing, the mall boasts an exquisite collection of fine and fashion accessories across diverse categories:

- **Pure Gold & Diamond Jewellery:** Fine jewellery boutiques offering hallmark gold and brilliant-cut diamonds tailored for weddings, celebrations, and heirloom investments.
- **Imitation Jewellery:** A rich variety of statement pieces, kundan sets, and contemporary fashion accessories.
- **Footwear & Accessories:** Handcrafted traditional khussas, embellished heels, and stylish modern footwear to complete every ensemble.

The signature food gallery: a global culinary journey

Complemented by its luxurious retail environment, the Signature Food Gallery provides a refined dining experience set within plush, comfortable seating. Designed for families and food lovers, the gallery showcases a diverse selection of international and regional cuisines: Pakistani Street Food • Desi & Continental Staples • Mexican Food • Halal Sushi Box • Fast Food Favourites • Tea & Dessert.





Find your next *mega moment*
on the cake aisle in stores nationwide

or to order direct from our bakery visit...

www.yorkshirebakingco.com

Abu Bakr Supermarket's secret to success? "Respect and Unity."

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 who credits much of the supermarket's success to his younger brothers Sajid and Wajid, who he affectionately refers to as his "arms". They work closely beside him in growing a family 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.

www.abubakrgroup.com

YORKSHIRE'S LEADING ASIAN SUPERMARKET

abu bakr

Fresh produce • Halal butchery • Bakery • International foods

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

My Peshawar: Representing a family's passion for preserving culture through food

My Peshawar is more than just a restaurant; it is a celebration of heritage, family, and the rich culinary traditions of Peshawar brought to the heart of the United Kingdom.

Founded in 2022, My Peshawar was created with a simple but ambitious vision: to introduce authentic Peshawari flavours to British diners while preserving the recipes, cooking methods, and hospitality that have been passed down through generations.

Inspired by the food, hospitality, and traditions of Peshawar, the family set out to recreate the authentic flavours they grew up with, bringing a true taste of the city to diners across Yorkshire and beyond.

What began as a family-run venture has quickly grown into one of the region's most recognised Pakistani restaurant brands, with four thriving locations across Bradford, Batley, Manchester, and most recently, Leeds.

The opening of the Leeds restaurant marks the latest chapter in the My Peshawar story, joining three already successful locations and reflecting the growing demand for authentic Pakistani cuisine across the UK.

At the heart of My Peshawar is a commitment to authenticity. From its award-winning Chapli Kebabs to its famous Charsi Karahi, every dish is carefully prepared to showcase the bold, distinctive flavours that have made Peshawar's cuisine renowned throughout the world. Guests are welcomed not only with exceptional food but also with the warmth, generosity, and family values that sit at the core of Peshawari culture.

In just a short period of time, My Peshawar has achieved what many established businesses spend decades striving for. Since opening its doors, the restaurant has received numerous awards and accolades, reflecting both the quality of its food and the dedication of the family behind the brand.

More than a restaurant, My Peshawar represents a family's passion for preserving culture through food, creating memorable experiences, and bringing communities together around the dining table.

www.mypeshawar.uk

MY PESHAWAR

THE TASTE OF KHYBER

1 BRADFORD
30 Easby Rd,
Bradford BD7 1QX

2 BATLEY
5 Alfreds Way,
Batley WF17 5DR

3 MANCHESTER
50-52 Wilmslow Rd,
Manchester M14 5TQ

4 LEEDS
Princes Ave, Roundhay,
Oakwood, Leeds, LS8 2FA

When you empower a woman, you change a nation: The heart of KORT's mission

At KORT, we have witnessed something extraordinary when a woman is given dignity, education, and opportunity, she doesn't just transform her own life. She transforms her family, her community, and the generations that follow. This belief sits at the heart of our mission, and it is made possible only through the compassion and generosity of our donors.

Many of the girls who arrive at KORT come from unimaginable hardship losing parents, facing poverty, or surviving trauma.

Yet with the support of our donors, these same girls grow into confident young women studying medicine, teaching, technology, and social sciences.

Their success is not an accident. It is the direct result of people who chose to believe in them.

This commitment to women's empowerment is now reaching a historic milestone with the construction of the £32+ million KORT Hospital.

For the first time, mothers in Azad Kashmir will have access to world-class maternity care, neonatal services, and specialist treatment close to home. Too many women in the region have lost their lives due to preventable complications.

This hospital funded by the kindness of donors will save thousands of mothers and babies every year.

Behind every empowered girl at KORT is a donor who cared. Behind every mother who will receive safe medical care stands a community that refused to look away. And behind every life changed is a simple truth: compassion is powerful.

KORT's work extends beyond our orphanage walls. We support widows, vulnerable mothers, and women-led households with financial aid, vocational training, and emergency relief giving women the strength to rebuild their lives with dignity.

To every donor who has stood with us: your generosity is not just charity. It is hope. It is healing. It is empowerment. And it is shaping a brighter future for women across South Asia.

Visit: www.kort.org.uk for more information



Twenty-two years ago, with nothing more than the prayers of their parents and a modest starting stock of six sofas and six rolls of carpet, the Khan family set out on a journey that would transform the way households across Yorkshire furnished their homes.

Founded by brothers Jhangeer and Qadeer, later joined by the next generation with Asim, Ideal Carpets & Furniture was built on faith, family values, and determination.

What began as a small-scale retail outlet has grown, into a thriving business employing 15 dedicated staff members and working in partnership with 12 self-employed fitters.

Together, this team represents the heart of Ideal Carpets: a business grounded in honesty, customer care, and hard work.

Today, Ideal Carpets operates from a 15,000 sq. ft. showroom, showcasing a wide selection of flooring, carpets, furniture, and household essentials. Complementing this is a 16,000 sq. ft. warehouse, enabling the company to hold extensive stock and provide faster, more efficient service.

With demand rising, the family is now expanding its facilities further, with the ambition to distribute to other retailers across the region.

Covering the whole of Yorkshire, Ideal Carpets serves private customers while also working with local councils, landlords, and retail partners. Its comprehensive range of flooring solutions and furniture, supported by finance options, has made it a trusted one-stop destination.

The journey into retail was not without challenges. Coming from a manufacturing background, the transition demanded courage and adaptability. Yet, with dedication and a reputation for service, Ideal Carpets has grown into Leeds' largest independent flooring and furniture retailer - a reflection of the trust built over more than two decades.

The business is proudly family-run, and its values remain unchanged: service with honesty, quality products, and genuine customer care. Many customers return time and again, recommending Ideal Carpets to family and friends - a testament to lasting relationships built on trust.

Looking ahead, the Khan family and their team remain ambitious. With warehouse expansion and a growing distribution network, Ideal Carpets is positioned to play an even greater role in Yorkshire's retail landscape. From six sofas and six rolls of carpet to becoming a household name, their journey is one of resilience, faith, and community loyalty.



EMPIRE LAW

Experts In Criminal Defence



Empire Law provides specialist defence in some of the most serious and complex criminal cases, including:

- Murder & Manslaughter
- Drug Trafficking & Conspiracy
- Firearms & Weapons Offences
- Serious Violence & Robbery
- Fraud & Financial Crime
- Money Laundering
- Terrorism & National Security
- Serious Sexual Offences

24/7 POLICE STATION REPRESENTATION

0113 320 2053
mail@empirelaw.co.uk
07717 610995
www.empirelaw.co.uk

REPRESENTING CLIENTS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND & WALES

Business Power Awards 2026

FINALISTS

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION & IMPACT IN BUSINESS & BEYOND

We are thrilled to announce the Finalists of the Business Power Awards 2026.

These outstanding organisations and individuals have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation and impact, setting the benchmark for business success.

Start-up of the Year

Prime Time Plumbing

Founded by Usman Aswat, Prime Time Plumbing has built a strong reputation for quality workmanship, reliable service and customer care in plumbing and bathroom installations. Beyond its commercial success, the business supports grassroots football and opportunities for young people.

Its community commitment earned national recognition as a grand-prize winner in Sage's 'Behind the Badge' campaign, securing a sponsorship partnership with Bradford City AFC.

Ayah Halal

Bringing traditional halal butchery into the digital age, Leeds-based Ayah Halal is making its mark on Britain's premium meat market.

The ambitious venture combines quality, convenience and innovation, offering 100% grass-fed halal meat through a nationwide online delivery platform.

With same-day local delivery and nationwide distribution, Ayah Halal is demonstrating how an established retail business can launch a fresh enterprise for a new generation of consumers.

Landy Brew Coffee

Founded by a husband-and-wife team, Landy Brew Coffee is a family-run venture bringing a distinctive twist to the traditional coffee experience.

Operating from 'Admiral Jack', a former military Land Rover Defender transformed into a mobile speciality coffee bar. Based at The Old Baths in Parkgate, Wirral, Landy Brew serves locally roasted coffee while catering for corporate events.

Beyond great coffee, the couple champion community spirit through fundraising charities.

Chakelet

Launched in 2025 by chocolatier Kiran Khan, Chakelet is bringing a fresh taste of luxury to Bradford's confectionery scene. Combining handcrafted chocolates, imaginative flavours and fine craftsmanship, the business has established a distinctive identity in a competitive market. Its Leeds Road boutique showcases creativity and innovation, while educational workshops introduce young people to the science and artistry of chocolate. An ambitious new brand with a commitment to quality, originality and community engagement.

SME of the Year

Café J'Adore

Founded in Bradford in 2021 by Raja Sakandar, Café J'Adore has grown into a thriving hospitality business, combining contemporary elegance, quality dining and accessible luxury. Expanding into Batley and launching the J'Adore Suite for private and corporate events, it now plans a new coffee, deli and bakery concept with national ambitions. Supporting around 40 local jobs, Café J'Adore demonstrates the strength of a growing SME through innovation, commercial ambition and a commitment to raising hospitality standards.

Prime Time Plumbing

Founded by Usman Aswat, Prime Time Plumbing has built a strong reputation for quality workmanship, reliable service and customer care in plumbing and bathroom installations. Beyond its commercial success, the business supports grassroots football and opportunities for young people.

Its community commitment earned national recognition as a grand-prize winner in Sage's 'Behind the Badge' campaign, securing a sponsorship partnership with Bradford City AFC.

Scent Salim

From a £1,000 investment at his family home to an internationally recognised fragrance brand, Ilyas Salim's journey is one of ambition and enterprise. Drawing on 70 years of family expertise, Ilyas and brother Haroon have built Scent Salim into a luxury perfumery specialising in rare Ouds, Musks and bespoke scents. With a flagship Leeds store, UK branches and a global clientele including celebrities and royalty, the business combines traditional craftsmanship, innovation and ethical values with a commitment to charitable giving.

Go Go Real Estate

Based in Leeds, Go Go Real Estate has built its reputation as an independent property agency specialising in residential sales, lettings and property management. Combining local market knowledge with a personal approach, the business supports buyers, sellers, landlords and tenants across the city. With a focus on honest advice, professional service and lasting client relationships, Go Go Real Estate demonstrates the value of independent enterprise, industry expertise and a commitment to serving its community.

Restaurant of the Year

Aagrah

Founded in Shipley in 1977 by three brothers - the late Haji Mohammed Sabir MBE, Zafar Iqbal and Mohammed Aslam MBE, DL - Aagrah has become one of Yorkshire's most celebrated restaurant groups.

Inspired by generations-old family recipes, the multi-award-winning business revolutionised British Asian dining with authentic Kashmiri cuisine.

Aagrah continues to thrive, with the next generation carrying forward nearly five decades of culinary excellence.

Jinnah

From a humble Bradford corner shop to a thriving Yorkshire restaurant group, Jinnah represents decades of entrepreneurial ambition and culinary excellence.

Led by Saleem Akhtar, the family business has earned a loyal following through authentic Kashmiri cuisine, exceptional hospitality and uncompromising quality.

With restaurants across Yorkshire, including its landmark Bradford venue, Jinnah continues to celebrate traditional family recipes, rich Kashmiri flavours and a proud culinary heritage.

Akbars

From a modest 28-seat restaurant on Bradford's Leeds Road in 1995, Akbar's became one of Britain's most celebrated South Asian restaurant brands.

The late Shabir Hussain transformed British Asian dining with authentic flavours, famously enormous naan breads and vibrant hospitality.

Expanding across major UK cities, Akbar's became a household name. Shabir's three daughters now proudly carry forward his extraordinary entrepreneurial legacy, preserving a brand built on ambition.

International

Established in 1976 by Mr Bashir and Mr Rehman, International Restaurant has been a cornerstone of Bradford's celebrated curry scene for five decades.

From modest beginnings, the family business has evolved into a multi-award-winning dining destination, renowned for authentic South Asian cuisine and exceptional hospitality.

Now led by the next generation, including Safeer, his brothers and Danyaal, International embraces contemporary fine dining while preserving rich culinary flavours.

Family Business of the Year

The Jewel Box

Built on generations of family dedication, The Jewel Box has become a trusted name in Leeds' jewellery trade. Based in Harehills, this family-run business combines fine jewellery collections with expert repairs and gold valuations. Renowned for its craftsmanship, honesty and personal service, it has earned an impressive 4.9-star Google rating. Its enduring reputation reflects decades of hard work, traditional values and a commitment to customers, preserving a proud family legacy for future generations.

Scent Salim

From a £1,000 investment at his family home to an internationally recognised fragrance brand, Ilyas Salim's journey is one of ambition and enterprise. Drawing on 70 years of family expertise, Ilyas and brother Haroon have built Scent Salim into a luxury perfumery specialising in rare Ouds, Musks and bespoke scents. With a flagship Leeds store, UK branches and a global clientele including celebrities and royalty, the business combines traditional craftsmanship, innovation and ethical values with a commitment to charitable giving.

Shimlas

From Allah Ditta's humble beginnings to Rahat Javid's ambitious expansion, Shimlas is a three-generation family success story rooted in Bradford. Built on authentic South Asian recipes and a passion for quality, the business has grown into a popular dining brand, famed for its Chicken Doner. With six branches, Shimlas blends family traditions with innovation and commercial ambition. Its success reflects generations of hard graft, entrepreneurial vision and a commitment to preserving its heritage while embracing growth.

The Monal by Jalwa

With 25 years of experience in the wedding industry, the family behind The Monal by Jalwa has built a recognised name in creating memorable celebrations. Combining decades of expertise with entrepreneurial vision, they have transformed a historic former memorial chapel into one of Yorkshire's most striking wedding destinations. Driven by family values, shared ambition and a passion for hospitality, The Monal represents a remarkable new chapter in their family business journey.

Retail Business of the Year

Abu Bakr Supermarkets

Abu Bakr Supermarkets are a beloved family-run business with five stores across Yorkshire, including flagship sites in Leeds and Batley. Founded in the 1970s by the late Chawdry Mohammed Aslam, the business grew under his son Abid Hussain ("Brother Abid") and brothers Sajid and Wajid, expanding from a small Keighley shop to full-service halal superstores. Known for fresh produce, halal butchery, bakery, homewares, and food-to-go counters, Abu Bakr blends quality, convenience, and community spirit while supporting local charities and global aid.

United Foods Cash & Carry

Founded in 1982 as a small grocery store, United Foods Cash & Carry has grown into one of the region's most trusted wholesale suppliers. Still family-run, it now operates from a 120,000 sq. ft. facility, serving retailers, caterers and foodservice businesses across Yorkshire and Lancashire. Built on hard work, trust and service, the company is known for quality, competitive pricing and a diverse range that reflects the region's communities. Guided by its second generation, United Foods remains rooted in customers and community.

Worldwide Foods

Worldwide Foods was founded in 1985 by Pervez Alam, who arrived in the UK from Pakistan in 1971 with a vision to bring authentic halal food to British communities. What began as a single Al Halal Supermarket has grown into the UK's leading halal grocery chain, with stores across the North and Midlands. Guided by family values and a commitment to quality, affordability, and customer care, Worldwide Foods now offers products from South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, and South America. Pervez Alam's vision has evolved into a brand that truly lives up to its name—flavours from around the world.

CC Continental

Since 2000, CC Continental Super Store has been a trusted name in Leeds, serving diverse communities with fresh produce, halal meat, spices, and household essentials. With branches on Chapeltown Road and Roundhay Road, including the landmark Fforde Grene site, the family-run business combines authenticity, value, and choice. CC Continental is recognised for high food safety standards and remains a cornerstone of community retail.

Brand of the Year

My Peshawar

Founded in 2022, My Peshawar is a family-run brand bringing the rich culinary heritage of Peshawar to British diners.

Now operating across Bradford, Batley, Manchester and Leeds, it has earned awards and a loyal following for its Chapli Kebabs and signature Charsi Karahi.

Combining generations-old recipes with Peshawari hospitality, the family has transformed its beginnings into a thriving restaurant business, preserving its culture through food and bringing communities together around the dining table.

Bison Steakhouse

From a single takeaway in 2016, family-run Bison Steakhouse has grown into a Yorkshire restaurant brand, with venues in Leeds, Batley and Bradford.

Specialising in premium halal dining, Bison is renowned for its 40-day matured Aberdeen Angus steaks, handcrafted burgers and fresh dishes, served in stylish surroundings.

With its own in-house butchery, a growing loyal following and ambitious franchise plans, Bison demonstrates how a family venture can become a recognised name.

Shimlas

Built on three generations of family enterprise, Shimlas has grown from one Bradford restaurant into a six-store brand.

Founder Allah Ditta established its reputation for authentic South Asian flavours, while successor Javid Qadir introduced the now-famous Chicken Doner, driving growth.

Today, the third generation, led by Rahat Javid, is driving expansion while safeguarding quality and innovation. With ambition and a loyal following, Shimlas is a Yorkshire success story rooted in enduring family values.

Mr T's

From its Bradford roots, Mr T's has become a growing halal fast-food brand, with outlets in Leeds, Batley, Huddersfield, Halifax and Wakefield.

Known for bold flavours and street food, its menu features signature burgers, premium Angus beef, chicken parmesans, loaded fries and indulgent milkshakes.

Combining strong branding with a modern dining experience, Mr T's continues to expand through menu innovation and customer choice, carving out a strong identity in Yorkshire's competitive casual dining market.

Law Firm of the Year

Tyler Hoffman Solicitors

From a single office to a growing regional practice, Tyler Hoffman Solicitors has built its reputation on legal expertise, accessibility and exceptional client care.

With offices in Wakefield, Halifax, Leeds and Oldham, the firm delivers nationwide representation in criminal defence, immigration, family law, fraud and motoring offences, backed by a 24/7 service.

Beyond the courtroom, its commitment to charitable fund-raising, local recruitment and nurturing future lawyers reflects a firm invested in people and communities.

Altaf Solicitors

Established in 2008, Bradford-based Altaf Solicitors has earned a formidable reputation defending complex and high-profile criminal cases across the UK.

Led by specialist Amjid Hussain, the firm tackles serious fraud, money laundering, regulatory investigations and major criminal offences with determined advocacy and legal expertise.

Beyond the courtroom, they sponsor a local boxing gym provides young people with a positive environment to develop discipline, confidence and ambition.

Kingsman Solicitors

A formidable force in criminal defence, Kingsman Solicitors represents clients in some of the UK's most serious and complex criminal proceedings.

From murder, manslaughter and firearms offences to major drug conspiracies, sexual offences and sophisticated fraud, its experienced legal team delivers determined advocacy.

With a reputation built on successful representation and unwavering client commitment, Kingsman champions the fundamental right to justice and a robust defence.

Kamrans Solicitors

With roots dating back to 1999, Leeds-based Kamrans Solicitors has become a respected name in serious criminal defence across England and Wales.

Its experienced team, including Solicitor Advocate Abdul Iftikhar, has handled high-profile cases involving multi-million-pound fraud, murder, money laundering, drug conspiracies and human trafficking.

Renowned for their meticulous preparation and fearless advocacy, the firm combines decades of expertise with nationwide representation.

Accountancy Firm of the Year

HCA Accountants

HCA Accountants, was founded in 2013 by Furqan Ahmad, who brings over 30 years of experience in the accountancy profession. HCA Accountants provides a full range of accounting services tailored to businesses of all sizes - offering both in-person and online support across the UK. HCA's team helps clients enhance profitability, improve financial clarity, and comply with all current legislation. A specialist area of expertise lies in R&D Tax Credits, where the firm has achieved a 100% success rate on claims, supporting companies innovating in science and technology.

Amanah Accountants

Amanah Accountants has earned a reputation for reliable, forward-thinking accountancy services for small businesses, sole traders, and individuals across the UK and beyond. The firm has expanded with branches in Bradford, Leeds, Birmingham, and in Dubai. Services range from bookkeeping, VAT, and tax returns to specialist areas including inheritance tax planning, capital gains, and business growth strategies. This ensures that clients receive tailored support at every stage of their financial journey.

The Accounting Company

The Accounting Company (Leeds) Limited has set the benchmark for excellence in the accounting industry. With over a decade of experience, the firm delivers reliable, accurate, and innovative accounting, tax, and financial services to individuals, entrepreneurs, and large enterprises across the UK. Embracing the latest technology and automation tools, it ensures efficiency, accuracy, and full regulatory compliance. Its flawless 5-star Google reviews and steady growth, reflect a trusted reputation built on quality and transparency.

Trailblazer of the Year



Lucy Ndlovu

Founder - Progressive Talent CIC

Founder of Progressive Talent CIC, Lucy Ndlovu is a powerful advocate for equity, bringing together people, policy and lived experience to challenge exclusion and drive change.

With an MA in Public Relations and Strategic Communications, she is pursuing a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy. A NOVA trustee, member of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel Independent Advisory Group and Entrepreneur in Residence at Leeds Beckett University, Lucy champions unheard voices.



Nazim Ali BEM

CEO - Nazim Ali Foundation

Raising over £1.6 million for charity, Bradford's legendary 'Ramadan Runner' Nazim Ali BEM has spent 28 years transforming lives through humanitarian action.

From building homes overseas to gruelling 10K runs while fasting, his commitment knows no bounds. At home, his Khidma Community Kitchen feeds people in need, while Creating Smiles has delivered toys to children in hospital for 13 years.

Awarded the British Empire Medal in 2025, Nazim proves that extraordinary change begins with relentless compassion.



Amberine Nawaz

Founder/CEO - Pink Ladies Ltd

Founder and CEO of Pink Ladies Ltd, Amberine Nawaz is challenging convention in a male-dominated transport industry, putting women in the driving seat - literally.

Her pioneering initiative empowers women to become drivers while offering safe, reliable journeys for women, children and vulnerable passengers.

More than a transport service, Pink Ladies is a statement about independence and opportunity. By breaking barriers and creating safer spaces, Amberine is driving meaningful change for women.



Aaliya Khan

Founder & Director - Women of Fortitude CIC

A trailblazing social entrepreneur, Aaliya Khan is turning women's economic empowerment into real opportunities across borders.

Founder of Anaqa Studios, Sew 2 Perfection Pvt Ltd and Women of Fortitude CIC, she champions skills, enterprise and employment, including job creation for women in Pakistan.

As a Director of Trade at PBBC, she has taken her advocacy to the international stage at UN CSW69 and CSW70, challenging barriers and championing a future where women have the power to thrive.

Entrepreneur of the Year

Raja Sakandar
Café J'Adore

Raja Sakandar has transformed Café J'Adore into a remarkable success story in just five years. Crowned Bradford's Best Restaurant for five consecutive years, the business boasts a 4.8 Google rating, reflecting its outstanding reputation and loyal customer following.

With a second venue in Batley - The J'Adore Suite caters for exclusive events and a new coffee, deli and bakery concept in development, Raja is building a hospitality empire driven by an uncompromising pursuit of excellence.



Kiran Khan
CEO and Chocolatier of Chakelet

Originally from London, Kiran Khan is the CEO and chocolatier behind Chakelet and the first British woman luxury chocolatier in West Yorkshire. Turning her passion for chocolate into a thriving business, she has brought handcrafted luxury creations to the region, combining artistic flair, innovation and fine craftsmanship. Beyond building her brand, Kiran inspires the next generation through school workshops exploring the history, science and artistry of chocolate, making learning creative and delicious!



Tanveer Yasin
Rajas

For 30 years, Tanveer Yasin has helped build Rajas through determination, sacrifice and a belief in family enterprise. His entrepreneurial journey has created jobs, supported families and helped shape Bradford's food scene. Yet his legacy extends beyond commercial success. Through resilience, hard graft and a commitment to nurturing ambition, he has inspired his children to build businesses of their own, turning three decades of enterprise into opportunities for the next generation.



Abass Jahangir
The Bloom Atelier

At just 19, University of York student Abass Jahangir transformed his mother's passion for floristry into The Bloom Atelier, an ambitious family enterprise. Bringing his brothers on board, he combined creativity with business acumen, securing opportunities with major brands including L'Oréal and Bodycare. Alongside his studies, Abass has supported hospital, disability and homelessness causes, proving that youthful ambition, family values and entrepreneurial vision can create both commercial success and social impact.

Community Champion of the Year



Rubina Niazi

Volunteer - Happy Women Group

Turning personal challenges into a powerful force for good, Rubina Niazi is a dedicated Bradford community champion bringing women together through the Happy Women group.

Drawing on her journey raising an autistic child towards independence, she supports families with practical guidance, empathy and encouragement.

Featured in the BBC documentary Bradford Aunties, Rubina has also helped bridge generational divides, tackling isolation, building confidence and creating stronger, more connected communities.



Ashley Jackson

Founding Director - Dentist-2U

Breaking barriers in healthcare, Ashley Jackson is the driving force behind Dentist-2U, a pioneering mobile dental service bringing essential treatment to elderly, vulnerable and housebound patients.

Founded in Bolton, the service has reached 2,300 patients across 200 care homes, transforming access to dental care.

Going beyond professional duty, Ashley personally funds treatment for patients unable to afford it, while challenging NHS leaders to address inequalities and ensure society's most overlooked receive care.



Mohammed Zafran BEM,BCAC

Founder - Midlands Community Hub CIC

Turning unimaginable personal tragedy into a mission to save lives, Mohammed Zafran BEM has spent over 15 years transforming communities across Birmingham.

Through Midlands Community Hub CIC, he has helped over 48,000 young people escape crime and pursue brighter futures, while supporting vulnerable women and girls.

His hub assists over 800 people weekly. A Pride of Birmingham winner, UK Peace Ambassador and West Midlands Crimestoppers Chair, he champions justice and opportunity.



Nahid Rasool

CEO - Shantona Women's Centre

For over 28 years, Nahid Rasool has been a powerful voice for women, families and marginalised communities across Leeds.

As CEO of Shantona Women's Centre, she has championed vital grassroots services tackling domestic abuse, inequality, safeguarding and health disparities.

Combining strategic leadership with deep community understanding, Nahid has strengthened partnerships and opened doors for vulnerable women, dedicating her career to breaking barriers, advancing social justice and creating lasting change.

Professional of the Year



Sadia Sajid
Co-CEO Womenzone

With over 20 years' experience supporting diverse communities, Sadia Sajid is Co-CEO of Bradford's WomenZone and a passionate champion of equality and inclusion.

She has developed programmes improving women's health, wellbeing, education, employability and opportunities for disadvantaged families and young people.

Through partnership, innovation and a determination to amplify underrepresented voices, Sadia continues to strengthen communities, build resilience and transform lives across Bradford and beyond.



Naveed Ahmed
CEO & Founder Made Group

As founder and CEO of multi-award-winning MADE Group, Naveed Ahmed has built a business spanning architecture, construction, property development and interior design.

Leading a diverse team delivering projects locally, nationally and internationally, he champions creative excellence and an integrated service from concept to completion.

His commitment to mentorship, employee wellbeing and community projects has helped establish MADE as a respected, growing brand with people at its heart.



Shahid Sheikh
GP Practice Manager

As Practice Manager and Operational Lead at River House Surgery, Shahid Sheikh is driving improvements in NHS primary care through digital innovation, governance and workforce leadership.

Previously recognised with a BFSI Innovation Award and a COVID-19 Hero Award, he brings experience of transformation and crisis response.

From QR-based patient registration to staff wellbeing initiatives and measurable cost savings, Shahid has a commitment to safer, more accessible patient care.



Dr Naveed Baig
Senior GP Partner

Marking his retirement in October 2026, Dr Naveed Baig leaves a remarkable legacy after 40 years of dedicated NHS service.

A respected senior GP Partner, educator and mentor, he has cared for generations of patients while guiding junior doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals.

Known for his compassion, integrity and clinical excellence, Dr Baig's influence extends far beyond the consulting room, strengthening primary care, inspiring future clinicians and making a lasting difference to community health.

Lawyer of the Year



Eram Malik

Solicitor - Islamophobia Response Unit (IRU)

Breaking barriers in law and fighting discrimination, Eram Malik is a determined advocate for justice, championing victims of workplace harassment, victimisation and unfair dismissal.

The first in her family to qualify as a solicitor, she overcame cultural, gender and societal obstacles while raising a young family.

Today, through the Islamophobia Response Unit, she fights for those facing prejudice and inequality, combining legal expertise with community education. Her awareness programmes empower individuals to understand their rights, challenge injustice and seek redress, giving a powerful voice to those too often silenced.



Luke Patel

Partner - Blacks Solicitors

A heavyweight in commercial litigation, Luke Patel has built one of the North's leading dispute resolution teams at Blacks Solicitors, expanding it from two to 25 specialists.

Recognised by Legal 500 as an exceptional litigator, he has tackled complex, high-stakes disputes reaching the Court of Appeal, with one case progressing to the Supreme Court.

His specialist expertise in sensitive disputes involving mosques, temples, gurdwaras and charities has strengthened community institutions. Beyond the courtroom, his mentorship has opened doors for aspiring lawyers, cementing a career defined by legal excellence, leadership and lasting impact.



Jabran Hussain

Partner - Kingsman Solicitors

At the sharp end of criminal defence, Jabran Hussain is a Partner at Kingsman Solicitors, a firm recognised for its formidable advocacy, determination and track record in defending serious criminal cases across the UK.

From murder, firearms and major drugs offences to complex fraud and white-collar crime, his practice navigates cases where reputations, livelihoods and liberty hang in the balance.

Known for meticulous preparation, fearless representation and a highly personal approach, Jabran champions the fundamental right to a robust defence, earning the trust of clients and families facing some of life's most challenging circumstances.

CEO of the Year



Farrah Qureshi

CEO & Founder - Global Diversity Practice

A global powerhouse in diversity and inclusion, Farrah Qureshi has built Global Diversity Practice into an international force spanning 188 countries.

With over 30 years' corporate experience, she advises global CEOs and major brands including Shell, DHL and Heathrow, transforming workplace cultures and leadership.

Her programmes have reached over 120,000 learners at Shell alone. Combining commercial vision, innovation and humanity, this Bradford-born trailblazer is reshaping how the world does business.



Rehana Bakhat

Founder - Conscious 11 Ltd

A former solicitor turned pioneering entrepreneur, Rehana Bakhat is challenging how businesses understand workplace stress.

As founder of Conscious 11 Ltd, she created Decode Your Stress, an approach that uncovers the hidden behaviours keeping high achievers trapped in cycles of pressure and burnout.

Drawing on law, leadership and behavioural science, she now delivers coaching and corporate training, including HM Courts & Tribunals Service, turning personal reinvention into a bold new business model.



Majid Iqbal

CEO - Islamophobia Response Unit (IRU)

With over 25 years in law, Majid Iqbal has transformed the Islamophobia Response Unit into a force for justice, defending people facing prejudice and discrimination.

Under his leadership, the charity has supported more than 1,000 people and investigated 906 incidents of Islamophobia. Its specialist employment law service secured £129,701.80 in settlements during the reporting period.

Through partnerships, legal advocacy and policy reform, Majid is turning a commitment to equality into measurable change.



Nizam Patel

Director - Halal Options

From a one-man operation in an attic to a respected Islamic finance brokerage, Nizam Patel has spent 25 years opening doors to home ownership for British Muslims.

Under his leadership, Halal Options became the UK's first directly FCA-authorised Home Purchase Plan brokerage in 2007. His expertise has helped shape products and challenge industry practices.

Now leading a growing team of nine, Nizam combines commercial ambition with principled advice, advocacy and a mission to train the next generation.

Business Power Awards 2026

Special Commendations

Fashion Retail Icon Award

Recognising a fashion retail powerhouse whose vision, innovation and commercial success has set new standards in retail excellence.

Enterprise Excellence Award

Honouring a visionary retail development that has transformed the local shopping landscape, created opportunities for businesses and driven economic growth.

Courage and Enterprise Award

Honouring the strength to build a successful business through life's most difficult and challenging circumstances.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Honouring a lifetime of exceptional achievement, visionary leadership and an enduring legacy of excellence, influence and contribution.

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

Asian Express Newspaper

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

BPA
EMPOWERING
women
2027
AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Nominate a Woman Who Deserves to Be Recognised

CELEBRATING EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN

Shining a spotlight on the trailblazers, leaders and changemakers who drive business, community and social impact

2027
AWARDS CEREMONY
& GALA DINNER
DATE & VENUE TBC

businesspowerawards.co.uk

POWERED BY
Asian Express Newspaper