

**WOMEN IN
WESTMINSTER
THE 100 SW1**

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

HELPING BRITAIN



Lloyds Banking Group increased the percentage of women in senior roles from 28% in 2014 to 37% in 2019

**HELPING
BRITAIN
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FOREWORD

BARONESS JENKIN

With a record 220 female Members of Parliament taking their seats in Parliament after the 2019 General Election – and the proportion reaching 34%, the highest of either Chamber to date – there is much to celebrate, as the UK moves up the rankings for female representation.

Women in Westminster: The 100 celebrates the achievements and the valuable role women play in public life, by recognising one hundred high profile women from the world of Westminster. However, the focus of this list is not solely female MPs. Inspirational, talented women are leading their fields across politics and public service; from journalists like Laura Kuenssberg or Beth Rigby, to Civil Servants such as Helen Bower-Easton, and activists like Nimco Ali and Amika George.

The judging panel, comprised of key figures with extensive expertise throughout Westminster, had a difficult job, and much robust debate narrowing down a long list to The 100.

Women still face a number of challenges, both inside and outside of Westminster, but we shouldn't lose sight of the huge strides made in recent years, and the remarkable women at the forefront of this country.

In choosing this list, all of the judges were struck by the number of women rising up the ranks across Westminster, and I hope this list will inspire the next generation of women to begin their journey – and that we see many of them featured on The 100 in years to come.



Baroness Jenkin of Kennington is Conservative peer and co-founder of Women2Win

FIONA CANNON

I was delighted when Lloyds Banking Group agreed to support 'Women in Westminster: The 100' with The House magazine and my congratulations go, not only to the truly inspirational group of women who made the Women in Westminster 100, but also to those who put the selection together. Given the calibre of women being considered, this was no easy task!

The list is of course by no means exhaustive, as there are so many brilliant women in Westminster. But this is a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of those women who are changing the conversation, challenging the approach to policy making and providing a female perspective to the important political issues of the day.

Lloyds Banking Group is committed to being a company where everyone has an equal chance to thrive. But we also know there is still much for us, and the business world as a whole, to do to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

That is why it is important for all of us to work together, keep having the sometimes difficult conversations – and use the example set by the remarkable women working in Westminster today as an inspiration and a guiding light.



Fiona Cannon is Group Responsible Business, Sustainability & Inclusion Director Lloyds Banking Group

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THE HOUSE

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DIANE ABBOTT

The first black female MP, Diane Abbott has represented Hackney North and Stoke Newington since 1987. The daughter of a Jamaican welder and a psychiatric nurse, she read history at Cambridge. A long-time rebel, unafraid of controver-

sy, Abbott is known for her passionate oratory, winning the Spectator's Parliamentary Speech of the Year award in 2008 for a speech against 42-day detention of terrorist suspects. She has held the position of shadow home secretary since 2016.



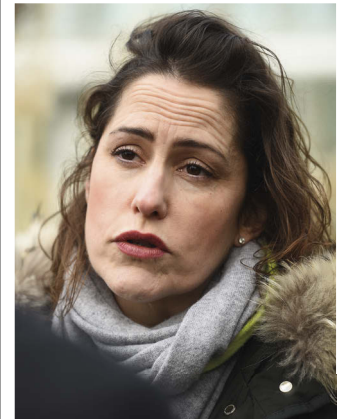
ANNE ALEXANDER

Senior political producer for Good Morning Britain, Alexander has been with the ITV show since 2009. Originally from Wednesbury in the West Midlands – she now describes herself as “a proud Walthamstower” – Alexander took American studies at the University of Reading before joining the Express & Star journalism training scheme. A former political editor at the Yorkshire Evening Post, she later made her move into TV, joining the BBC's Daily Politics programme in 2006.



VICTORIA ATKINS

After graduating with a degree in law from Cambridge University, Victoria Atkins became a criminal barrister, specialising in prosecuting serious organised crime. In her role, she prosecuted international drug trafficking rings, gun-runners and fraudsters. She is one of 30 advocates in England and Wales appointed to the attorney general's regulators panel and the Serious Fraud Office's list of specialist fraud prosecutors. She was first elected MP for Louth and Horncastle in 2015. In November 2017, she was made a minister in the Home Office, responsible for crime, safeguarding and vulnerability. From January 2018 to February 2020, she also served as a minister for women.



NIMCO ALI

Self-described “chief fanny defender” – and author of What We're Told Not to Talk About (But We're Going to Anyway) – anti-female genital mutilation campaigner Ali was born in Somaliland in 1982. Having moved to Manchester with her family when she was four, Ali endured FGM at the age of seven, when on holiday with her family in Djibouti. Having undergone reconstructive surgery in later life, Ali helped set up the charity Daughters of Eve (2010) to protect girls at risk of FGM, and also The Five Foundation, a global campaigning partnership dedicated to ending the practice, in 2019. She was awarded an OBE last year for services to tackling FGM and gender inequality.

KEMI BADENOCH

Since her election as MP for Saffron Walden in 2017, Kemi Badenoch has enjoyed a fast rise in the Conservative party. Appointed vice-chair in January 2018, her first ministerial role came 18 months later as a minister in the Department for Education. In February 2020, she was made Exchequer secretary to the Treasury and Minister for Equalities. Prior to joining Parliament, she was a member of the London Assembly, acting as the GLA Conservatives' spokesperson for the economy. Following her computer systems engineering degree, she gained a law degree, and has worked at RBS, Coultts and the Spectator.



KATY BALLS

The deputy political editor at the Spectator, and a columnist at the i paper, Balls was shortlisted for Political Commentator of the Year at the 2017 Press Awards. She presents her own podcast Women with Balls, interviewing women “at the top of their respective games, about their passions, their battles, and what makes them tick”. Born and raised in North Berwick, she studied philosophy at the University of Durham.



MHAIRI BLACK

Mhairi Black was just twenty and still had an exam for her undergraduate degree to take when she became MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire South in 2015. Black joined the SNP in 2011 after learning that a referendum for Scottish independence was on the cards. She began campaigning on Paisley High Street by distributing leaflets for the Yes campaign. During nearly five years in parliament, she has served on the Work and Pensions Committee, and held roles as an SNP spokesperson across multiple briefs.



EMMA BARNETT

An award-winning journalist, several politicians have fallen victim to her forensic interviewing style. The presenter of Newsnight and the Emma Barnett Show on BBC Radio 5 Live – with an occasional slot on Woman’s Hour on BBC Radio 4 – Barnett is also a columnist for the Sunday Times. A former digital media and women’s editor for the Telegraph, she studied history and politics at the University of Nottingham before taking journalism at Cardiff. Her first book, Period, was published last year.



HELEN BOWER-EASTON

Described by the Evening Standard as having an “encyclopaedic memory” and a “Stakhanovite work ethic”, Bower-Easton was the first woman to serve as the prime minister’s official spokesperson – first to David Cameron and then Theresa May. The director of communications at the FCO since 2016, she was awarded a CBE for public service in David Cameron’s resignation honours list.



JESS BRAMMER

Promoted to editor-in-chief in February, Brammer has been with Huffpost UK since July 2019. Prior to that she had worked as deputy editor at *Newsnight* and also as a news editor at ITN and an assistant producer for *Question Time*. Huffpost was a finalist for News Provider of the Year at the Press Gazette British Journalism Awards in December – and her “agenda-setting” journalism earned her five Royal Television Society nominations during her *Newsnight* tenure and A graduate of the LSE, she holds a first-class honours degree in International History with Russian language.



BARONESS BRINTON

Baroness Brinton has been a long serving member of the Liberal Democrats. She was the party’s president from January 2015 to December 2019, and acted as co-leader of the Lib Dems following the general election last year. Since 2011, she has been a member of the House of Lords. She has held a number of internal positions in the Lib Dems and helped set up the leadership programme which aims to increase the number of women, disabled and LGBT MPs. She started her career at the BBC as a television floor manager, and served as Cambridge country councillor from 1993 to 2004.

SUELLA BRAVERMAN

Suella Braverman replaced Geoffrey Cox as attorney general in February 2020. The appointment came fewer than five years since she was first elected as MP for Fareham. A Brexiteer, Braverman was made deputy chair of the European Research Group before succeeding Steve Baker as chair in June 2017. Six months later, she was made a Brexit minister by Theresa May, before resigning in November 2018 in protest at the prime minister’s withdrawal agreement. The Cambridge law graduate, who has a master’s in European and French law from the Pantheon-Sorbonne in Paris, qualified as an attorney in New York state. While a barrister, she was based at No5 Chambers in London practising in planning, judicial review and immigration law.



FIONA BRUCE

The first woman newsreader for the BBC’s flagship *News at Ten*, Bruce is currently the presenter for one of the corporation’s most high profile political shows, *Question Time*. Having joined the BBC in 1989 as a researcher for *Panorama*, she has also fronted *Crimewatch* and *Antiques Roadshow* among other programmes. A graduate of French and Italian from Oxford University, she also studied at University of London Institute in Paris.



ZAMILA BUNGLAWALA

The director of International and EU at the Department for Education, Bunglawala was formerly deputy director of policy and strategy for the Cabinet Office's race disparity unit, where she launched the Ethnicity Facts and Figures website. She has held a number of senior roles – including at the Open Society Foundation, Young Foundation, Brookings Institution and United Nations – and has led a wide range of pioneering projects, specialising in education and employment, open data and digital, gender, SGBV, ethnic and faith minority groups, humanitarian conflicts and development.



DAWN BUTLER

Dawn Butler has been MP for Brent Central since 2015. From 2005-2010, she represented Brent South. During her first parliament, Brent served as a government whip and latterly as a minister for young citizens and youth engagement at the Cabinet Office. In March 2017, Butler became the first MP in history to ask a question in the House of Commons using sign language. After a stint as shadow diversity minister, she was promoted to shadow secretary of state for women and equalities in August 2017. Butler is currently vying for the deputy leadership of the Labour party. Butler previously worked as an officer in the GMB Union and as an adviser to Ken Livingstone in City Hall.

SARAH CHAMPION

The recently elected chair of the International Development Committee, Champion was Rotherham's first female MP when she won a 2012 by-election. A former arts administrator and chief executive of a children's hospice, Champion has campaigned to secure justice for the child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking gangs in her constituency. She has previously served as both the shadow minister for preventing abuse, and shadow secretary for women and equalities.



KAY BURLEY

A Sky News anchor and host of her eponymous show, Kay Burley@Breakfast, since October last year, Burley has enjoyed a 28-year career with the broadcaster. A self-described "Wigan street-fighter", she is famous for her forthright interviewing style. She started out as a reporter on her local newspaper before working for BBC local radio, Tyne Tees Television and TV-am. Burley says that she has the world record for doing "the most live TV" – at more than a million minutes.

JOANNA CHERRY

The MP for Edinburgh South West since 2015, Cherry is the SNP shadow home secretary and justice secretary. One of Scotland's leading QCs, Cherry was previously a standing junior counsel to the Scottish government, and advocate depute, and has also worked for the Scottish National Sex Crimes unit at the Crown Office. She has worked pro bono, giving assistance to Women's Aid and Rape Crisis among others. During the 2019 Parliament, she played a central role in the 'indicative votes' – and she was the leading litigant in the Scottish court case challenging the five-week prorogation of Parliament by Boris Johnson.



Women in Westminster



JO COBURN

One of the BBC's most experienced political correspondents, Coburn presents Politics Live. She has also fronted Sunday Politics and is an occasional presenter for the BBC News Channel and Radio 4's The World This Weekend. After taking history and German at the University of Manchester, she studied Middle Eastern politics at the University of Oxford.

YVETTE COOPER

First elected in 1997 at the age of 28, comprehensive school-educated, Oxford graduate, Kennedy Scholar, economist and Independent journalist Cooper became the youngest minister in the first Blair government. The first serving minister to take maternity leave, she has held senior ministerial positions including chief secretary to the Treasury, and then work and pensions secretary. She later proved herself a formidable shadow to Theresa May as home secretary. Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee since 2016, she was central to several backbench Parliamentary challenges to prevent a no-deal Brexit.



PIPPA CRERAR

Chair of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Pippa Crerar is political editor of the Daily Mirror. Formerly the deputy political editor at the Guardian, prior to that she covered London and Westminster politics for over a decade at the Evening Standard. Crerar described returning to the Daily Mirror in 2018 as its political editor as "particularly special" as working for the red-top had been her first Fleet Street job in 2000.



STELLA CREASY

Labour MP Stella Creasy has proved to be one of the most effective backbench politicians in the House of Commons. Among her campaigns include a successful push for better regulation of payday loans and allowing women from Northern Ireland to access free abortions on the NHS in England and Wales. Creasy was first elected as MP for Walthamstow in 2010. Under Ed Miliband, she held front bench roles in the shadow teams for Justice and Business, Innovation and Skills. Creasy read Social and Political Sciences at Magdalene College, Cambridge before a postgraduate degree at the London School of Economics.



TRACEY CROUCH

As a popular politician, Tracey Crouch is something of an oxymoron. Elected as MP for Chatham and Aylesford in 2010, she made her name as sports minister, a role she was first appointed to by David Cameron in 2015 and retained under Theresa May until November 2018, when she stood down over the Government's policy on fixed odds betting terminals. A qualified FA football coach, she is a devout Tottenham Hotspur fan. After graduating with a law and politics degree from Hull University, she worked as a Parliamentary researcher and also served as chief of staff to three shadow ministers.

MELANIE DAWES

Prior to her appointment as Ofcom chief executive in February, Dame Melanie was permanent secretary at the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, from 2015 to 2020. Joining the civil service in 1989, she worked in a number of departments including Transport and HMRC. In April 2019, as chair of the Civil Service People Board, she was appointed the overall champion for diversity and inclusion in the Civil Service.



VICTORIA DERBYSHIRE

A “voice for the voiceless”, Derbyshire’s eponymous daytime current affairs programme, the Victoria Derbyshire Show, has won a number of plaudits for its original journalism – including a Bafta in 2017 for her interview with four footballers who had been sexually abused as children by a football coach. In February a government announcement that it was to take action to prevent children being housed in unregulated accommodation – in response to an investigation by the programme – coincided with the BBC’s shock announcement that it was to cancel the TV show as a result of budget cuts.



NIKKI DA COSTA

So good she was appointed twice, Nikki da Costa is serving her second term as director of legislative affairs in No 10. First given the role under Theresa May, da Costa advised the PM on all Parliamentary matters and helped mastermind the strategy for delivering the Government’s Brexit legislative programme during a hung Parliament. After leaving in November 2018, she became coveted in the media for her analysis and Parliamentary know-how. Boris Johnson recruited her back to Downing Street last July. She is a senior counsel at Cicero Group and was the managing director at her eponymous Nikki da Costa & Associates training business.

ELIN DE ZOETE

Elin de Zoete is the managing director of Political Lobbying and Media Relations, a company she has worked at since 2008. She works with clients across subject areas, from NHS trusts and charities through to publicly listed companies promoting and protecting corporate relations. She is an executive committee member of the Public Affairs Board, an NED of ImpactEd and a member of the Institute of Directors. She has a first in Politics and East European Studies at UCL and a master’s in Development Studies at LSE. She has been recognised as a rising star by PRWeek and Public Affairs News.



OUR PATRONS

WE'D LIKE TO THANK OUR PATRONS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT
IN MAKING *WOMEN IN WESTMINSTER: THE 100* POSSIBLE

BARONESS JENKIN

In 2005, Baroness Jenkin of Kennington and Theresa May founded Women2Win to address the need for more female Conservative candidates and MPs. At the time there were just 17 Conservative women MPs, representing only 9% of the parliamentary party. Now, after 15 years and four elections, there are 87 Conservative women, and 220 women MPs in total – a record number. Jenkin is currently Women2Win co-chair and continues to work on a cross-party basis to achieve equality of representation in Parliament through the Parliament Project and the 50:50 Parliament #AskHerToStand initiative.

Baroness Jenkin stood for election as a Member of Parliament in the 1987 general election and was created a life peer on 26 January 2011 in recognition of her charity work. Along with her work in the House of Lords, Jenkin is also the Founding Chancellor at Writtle University College, and a Trustee of Cool Earth, Feeding Britain and also at WRAP. She previously was a Trustee of UNICEF UK. She is a Patron of Restless Development and was the founder of the Conservative Friends of International Development.



JILL RUTTER

Jill Rutter is a senior fellow at the Institute for Government. She directed the Institute's work on better policy making and arm's-length government, and Brexit. She is an experienced former senior civil servant, having worked in HM Treasury, Number 10 and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Before joining the Institute, Jill was Director of Strategy and Sustainable Development at Defra. Previous civil service jobs included periods as Treasury Communications Director, in private office and as the policy lead on tax, development and local government finance, as well as a period in the Number 10 Policy Unit. She also worked for BP for six years.

Jill is a frequent blogger and a regular commentator on civil service and policy making for radio and television and has appeared on Radio 4's Westminster Hour, World at One, Beyond Westminster and most recently, Start the Week and the Today programme.



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RUPERT MCNEIL

Rupert McNeil was appointed Government Chief People Officer on 1 January 2016, joining the Civil Service from Lloyds Banking Group, where he was the Group HR Director. As Government Chief People Officer, Rupert is responsible for delivery of the Civil Service People Strategy, which sets out what the Civil Service needs to do to attract the most capable and public-spirited people. He provides leadership on the full range of people issues including talent, capability, inclusion, capacity, leadership, pay, performance, employee relations, culture and behaviours. Rupert is also Director-General for Government Shared Services, and a member of the People Board and Senior Talent Forum.

He began his career at the Confederation of British Industry before becoming a partner at Arthur Anderson and Deloitte. Since then he has worked for Barclays Bank plc, first as Executive Management Director and then as the HR Director for Global, Retail and Commercial Banking, and at Aviva where he was HR Director and then HR Centre of Expertise Director.



CAROLINE JOHNSON

Dr Caroline Johnson is the Conservative Party's Vice Chair for Women. She was elected as the MP for Sleaford and North Hykeham in a by-election in 2016, and subsequently re-elected in 2017 and again in the December 2019 General Election with an increased majority. She is former member of the Health and Environment committees, and is currently a member of the Education Committee. Dr Johnson is also a Consultant Paediatrician and lives in Sudbrook with her husband and their three children.



EMILY WALLACE

Emily Wallace is a senior Public Affairs practitioner that has spent 25 years working in Westminster primarily advising organisations how to engage with the policy making process. Emily is a former Managing Director of Connect Communications, Chief Executive of GK Strategy and most recently the London Partner of GPLUS, a Brussels based consultancy. Emily was named Public Affairs Consultant of the Year in 2013, Shortlisted for a Women in Public Life award as Public Affairs achiever of the year in 2013, and listed in the Policy Mogul top ten inspirational women in public affairs in 2019. Emily is a former Chair of the PRCA Public Affairs Group, and a Labour party activist in her spare time.



THE JUDGES

WOMEN IN WESTMINSTER: THE 100 WAS DRAWN UP BY A JUDGING PANEL OF MPS, PEERS, LOBBY JOURNALISTS, SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS, PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROFESSIONALS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS



ROSIE DUFFIELD

Rosie Duffield succeeded Jess Phillips as chair of the Women’s parliamentary Labour party late in 2019. Elected as MP for Canterbury in 2017, she was one of the first to be selected for the Jo Cox ‘Women in Leadership’ scheme set up in honour of the late Labour MP. In October 2019, Duffield drew widespread praise for her powerful speech on the domestic abuse she endured from a former partner. During her address, which came in a debate on the Domestic Abuse Bill, Duffield urged other victims of coercive control to come forward. Duffield is a former teaching assistant.

LESLIE EVANS

The first woman permanent secretary to the Scottish government – overseeing its £42.5bn budget – Evans was appointed in 2015. In charge of more than 6,000 civil servants, she is the principal policy adviser to the first minister, Nicola Sturgeon. Born in Northern Ireland and raised in England, she studied music at the University of Liverpool. She has lived in Scotland since 1985. Evans spent 20 years working for local authorities in Scotland and England before joining the civil service in 2000. Prior to becoming the permanent secretary, she was director general, learning and justice.



CAROLYN FAIRBAIRN

The honorary fellow of two Oxbridge colleges, with an MBA, an MA from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Cambridge University, Dame Carolyn Fairbairn is not short of diplomas. In November 2015, she was appointed director general at the Confederation of British Industry. During her storied career, Fairbairn has worked at the Economist, the World Bank, and McKinsey, and led the BBC’s digital strategy. In 2003, she designed and launched the TV service Freeview, and is a former member of the executive board at ITV. Fairbairn was a member of John Major’s No 10 policy unit, specialising in health. She was also a director of the Competition and Markets Authority, and the Financial Services Authority.



JO FIELD

Jo Field founded JFG Communications in 2016, where she serves as managing director. She was head of campaigns, communications and stakeholder engagement at Transport for London. Working with Labour MP Ruth Cadbury, Field helped secure support to set up the first ever All-Party Parliamentary Group for Women in Transport in 2016, where she acts as secretariat.

She is also a board member of Women in Transport and a strategic adviser to SCS railways. Field has a degree in Philosophy and a master’s in Social Science Research Methods from the University of Glasgow.

TAMARA FINKELSTEIN

Promoted to permanent secretary at Defra in June last year, Finkelstein was previously the department’s director general for EU exit delivery. A graduate of engineering science from Oxford, she also studied economics at the LSE. A former private secretary and speechwriter to Gordon Brown, Finkelstein was at the Treasury for 22 years before she moved to the Department of Health. In 2017, in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire, she led the Building Safety Programme for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Finkelstein cites her role in setting up Sure Start centres as one of her proudest achievements.

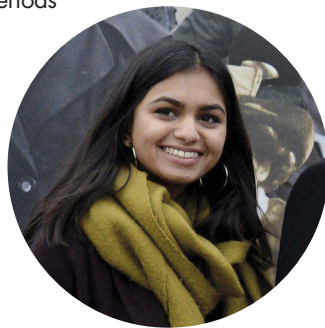
VICKY FORD

Prior to entering Parliament as MP for Chelmsford in 2017, Vicky Ford served as a Member of the European Parliament for the East of England constituency from 2009-2017. Since becoming an MP, Ford has been busy. She has chaired several All-Party Parliamentary Groups, including the APPG on Women in Parliament, and the APPG on Infrastructure; has been a member of the Science and Technology, and the Women and Equalities Select Committees; and served as PPS to Alok Sharma as international development secretary and to the team at the Foreign Office. In February 2020, Ford was appointed minister for children and families.



AMIKA GEORGE

After learning girls were using newspapers, toilet roll and socks to cope with their periods, Amika George decided to take action. Aged 17, she launched the Free Periods campaign in 2017, which calls on the Government to give free menstrual products to children from low-income families. Last Spring, Philip Hammond announced that girls at primary and secondary schools in England and Wales would be provided with free sanitary products from early 2020. It has now been rolled out to a wider age range to include those in sixth form colleges. George, one of the leading campaigners on period poverty, hopes to launch a Europe-wide movement to make schools offer free sanitary products.



Baldo Sciacca, Sophie Spring

LUCY FRAZER

A barrister specialising in commercial law, Lucy Frazer was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013. Two years later, she was elected Conservative MP for South Cambridgeshire, and was tipped as a star of the future. Her first ministerial role came in January 2018, where she served as a minister in the Ministry of Justice, before being made solicitor general in May 2019. Frazer was made prisons minister by Boris Johnson in July 2019. Frazer studied at Newnham College, Cambridge. While at university, she was elected president of the Cambridge Union.



AMELIA GENTLEMAN

Multi-award-winning Guardian columnist and author – she holds the George Orwell Prize for Journalism 2012 and the British Journalism Award's Journalist of the Year 2018, among others – Gentleman is best known for her work exposing the Windrush scandal. Her powerful journalism set in motion a chain of events that ultimately claimed the scalp of the then home secretary, Amber Rudd. A graduate of Russian and history from Oxford University, her recently published book, *The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the Hostile Environment*, has been nominated for the Baillie Gifford prize for 2019.



BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

A decorated athlete, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson won 16 Paralympic medals, including 11 golds, four silvers and one bronze, and 12 World Championship medals, including five golds, four silvers and three bronze. She also racked up six victories at the London marathon and broke 30 world records. Born with spina bifida, Grey-Thompson is one of the most successful disabled athletes in the UK. Grey-Thompson is a board member of the London Marathon, the SportsAid Foundation and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. In 2010, she was appointed to the House of Lords, where she sits as a crossbench peer. Alongside a number of honorary awards, Grey-Thompson has a degree in Politics and Social Administration from Loughborough University.



BARONESS HALE

First woman president of the Supreme Court (2017-2020); the first woman appointed to the Law Commission – and the first of her school to attend Cambridge. Hale is best known for

presiding over the Supreme Court's judgment on the lawfulness of prime minister Johnson's controversial decision to prorogue Parliament for six weeks at the end of 2019. AKA Lady Hale, she is a non-affiliated Peer, joining the House of Lords as a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in 2004.



HARRIET HARMAN

Mother of the House – and longest continuously serving woman MP in history – Harman has held the seat of Camberwell and Peckham for 38 years. A champion of women's rights, she is a solicitor by profession, and only the second woman ever to lead the Labour party – serving as acting leader in 2010 and 2015. Among other briefs, Harman has held the positions of social security secretary and solicitor general before being elected as deputy leader of the Labour party in 2007 – a role in which she served until 2015. She is responsible for the Equality Act of 2010 – which allows employers to discriminate in favour of female and ethnic minority job applicants – and was instrumental in introducing proxy voting for MPs who were on parental leave.

ISABEL HARDMAN

For several years, Isabel Hardman has been a leading political journalist in Westminster. After graduating from the University of Essex, Hardman worked for Inside Housing magazine, before becoming assistant news editor at PoliticsHome. She then moved to The Spectator magazine, where her reporting saw her win 'Journalist of the Year' in 2015 at the Political Studies Association awards. In 2018, she wrote her first book, *Why We Get the Wrong Politicians*, and her second book, *The Natural Health Service: What the Great Outdoors Can Do for Your Mind*, will be published later this year. Hardman is currently assistant editor of *The Spectator*.





CAROLYN HARRIS

Widely respected, and hands-on campaigning MP, Carolyn Harris has scored a number of victories since she won Swansea East for Labour in 2015. Able to work across parties, she was instrumental in the government's decision to reduce the maximum stake on fixed odds betting terminals, and also in securing its backing for a children's funeral fund to assist bereaved parents with burial fees. Currently deputy leader of Welsh Labour, Harris is also shadow minister for women and equalities, and the Home Office.

BARONESS HAYTER

Baroness Diane Hayter has had a long history with the Labour party. The former general secretary of the Fabian Society was chief executive of the European Parliamentary Labour party from 1990 to 1996. Hayter was on the party's national executive committee for twelve years, and chaired the body in 2007-08. She was appointed to the House of Lords in June 2010. She has served as a party whip and has held several roles as a party spokesperson, including on Business, the Cabinet Office and Brexit. Hayter is a member of the Upper Chamber's Liaison Committee, and is currently serving as Shadow Deputy Leader of the Lords.



JULIA HARTLEY-BREWER

A broadcaster and newspaper columnist known for her versatility, Hartley-Brewer is currently a TalkRadio breakfast show presenter. Republican, atheist and outspoken Brexiteer, Hartley-Brewer is a former political editor of the Sunday Express. As a political pundit, she has appeared on a range of shows including Have I Got News for You, Question Time and ITV's This Morning. An Oxford graduate, and former LBC presenter, she writes regularly for the Telegraph and the Sun.

AYESHA HAZARIKA

Currently editor of the Evening Standard's Londoner's Diary, Hazarika is a columnist and political commentator. Born in Coatbridge to parents of Indian Muslim descent, she is a law graduate from the University of Hull. A former political adviser to both Harriet Harman and Ed Miliband – each during their time as leader of the Labour party – her work included prepping them for PMQs. A stand-up comedian, she has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and was awarded an MBE in 2016 for services to politics.



MEG HILLIER

Public Accounts Committee chair since 2015, Hillier has been the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch since 2005. After reading PPE at Oxford, she worked as a journalist before becoming the youngest mayor of Islington in 1998, before being elected to the London Assembly and then to Parliament. A former immigration and asylum minister during Gordon Brown's administration, Hillier was later shadow energy and climate change secretary under Ed Miliband.

MARGARET HODGE

A 1994 by-election in Barking, triggered by the death of Jo Richardson, saw Margaret Hodge elected to parliament for the first time. In the Labour government, she served as minister across five portfolios, including in DCMS, the DFE and the DWP. As chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Hodge became known for her questioning of witnesses during her five-year tenure in charge, which came to an end in 2015. For twenty-one years, Hodge served on the Islington Council, which she led for nine years from 1982 to 1992. In August 2015, she was made a Dame in the Dissolution Honours List.



ROSE HUDSON-WILKIN

Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin made history when she became the first black and first woman Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons in 2010. For more than 16 years, she served as a priest in Hackney, and in 2007, she was appointed as Chaplain to the Queen. Hudson-Wilkin was ordained a priest in 1994, the first year the Church of England allowed female clergy. In November 2019, Hudson-Wilkin became the Bishop of Dover. In the process, she became the first black woman to serve as a Church of England Bishop. Archbishop Justin Welby has described her as 'one of the most influential and effective ministers in the public square'.



LAURA HUGHES

An award-winning Financial Times journalist, Hughes is a political and diplomatic correspondent. In 2018 she received both the Political Journalism award at the British Journalism Awards – for her reporting on sexual harassment at Westminster – and was named Young Journalist of the Year at the National Press Awards. A University of York history graduate, Hughes was a political correspondent at the Telegraph prior to joining the FT, and served a Stern Fellowship at the Washington Post last year.

DIANA JOHNSON

A campaigning politician, Labour MP Diana Johnson has been recognised publicly for her efforts on the backbenches. During her parliamentary career, she was part of the team that lobbied for Hull to become UK City of Culture in 2017 and campaigned for the independent public inquiry into the NHS Contaminated Blood Scandal. She was also instrumental in moves to ensure that women in Northern Ireland could access abortions on the NHS in England. Elected in 2005 as MP for Hull North, the former barrister served as an assistant whip and Education minister in the Labour government. She also held front-bench Labour roles from 2010-2016. In November 2018, she received the Political Studies Association's 'backbencher of the year' award.



BARONESS HUNT

Ruth Jones was made a crossbench peer in October 2019. She graduated from St Hilda's College, Oxford with a degree in English. She was also elected President of the Oxford Student Union. After her studies, Hunt joined the Equality Challenge Unit, before moving to LGBT charity Stonewall as a senior policy officer in 2005. By August 2014, she had risen to the role of chief executive. She led work on tackling homophobic bullying in schools and improving the health of lesbian, gay and bi people. She also fronted Stonewall's commitment to campaign for trans equality. In 2015, she was voted the third most influential LGBT person in Britain by the Independent's Rainbow List.



LAURA KUENSSBERG

An award-winning reporter, Laura Kuenssberg is one of the UK's leading and most recognisable journalists. Since July 2015, she has served as the BBC's political editor and is a regular contributor to the corporation's Brexitcast podcast. In the past year, she has made documentaries on the political fallout from the UK's decision to leave the European Union. Prior to her appointment, Kuenssberg was the chief correspondent at Newsnight. She has also worked as business editor for ITV News and as chief political correspondent for BBC News. A history graduate from the University of Edinburgh, her first job in the industry was for NBC News after completing a journalism course at Georgetown University.



GILLIAN KEEGAN

After starting out as an apprentice at a car factory aged 16, Gillian Keegan enjoyed a successful business career. Over the course of nearly three decades, she worked at NatWest Bank, MasterCard International, Amadeus IT Group, where she was based in Madrid, and for Travelport. She was elected Conservative MP for Chichester in 2017, where she was touted as a potential star of the future. In February 2020, she took on her first ministerial post as Apprenticeships and Skills minister in the Department for Education. This followed three roles as PPS, including to Matt Hancock at the Department of Health and Social Care.



Wanted: inspirational women... and a plan

Strong female role models are crucial in encouraging other women to realise their full potential, but whether in politics or any other walk of life, there has to be the right infrastructure in place to make it happen. **Fiona Cannon OBE**, Group Responsible Business, Sustainability & Inclusion Director at Lloyds Banking Group, explains why a plan and a pipeline are essential to delivering equality in the workplace and beyond.

The launch of 'Women in Westminster: The 100' has been a fantastic way to mark International Women's Day. Celebrating those who successfully challenge outdated attitudes and push issues

like family, gender and work-life balance up the political agenda is hugely important. They are role models who inspire others, while making a difference today.

In the business world too, we need more women in leadership positions. As

in politics, a more diverse set of decision-makers is likely to be a better one.

But on International Women's day last year, I heard a shocking fact; more people called David or Steve were directing FTSE 100 companies than women or people from ethnic minority backgrounds. That's unsustainable and while there are now no all-male boards in the FTSE 100, there are still 34 all male executive teams. Clearly, there is still some way to go.

At Lloyds Banking Group, we know we're not perfect, but I firmly believe we are taking the right action to help get us to where we want to be.

One of the most powerful interventions we have made is to set a public goal. We were the first FTSE100 company to do this for the proportion of women in senior roles. We started at 27 per cent

in 2014 and by the end of 2019, were at 37 per cent, so we're making good progress.

The goal was important because it provided focus. We had to treat gender equality like any other business issue to meet our public commitments. We needed to gather data, track progress on a regular basis and put in place the infrastructure to make it happen. It doesn't sound transformational, but it really is, because you take action based on evidence, not on what you think might work, or indeed what has worked for other companies.

One of the other things we noticed was



"Let's unleash the potential of every one of our women. The arguments are clear, they are economic, but fundamentally, it's simply the right thing to do"

how few women were in the pipeline for our most senior managerial roles. We initially worked with our top 20 most senior women, targeting those with the potential to reach our Executive Committee, or direct report roles, within two years. We met them individually to understand their ambitions and define their proven skill-sets to identify the future roles that would build the platform for promotion. As a result of this work, which began three years ago, five of those women became members of our Executive Committee. Overall, 33% of our Executive Committee and direct report population is female, meeting the Hampton Alexander review target.

But this focus on equality is not just limited to senior management; we believe it should run throughout the business.

Our women's network, Breakthrough, is the largest of its kind in the UK, with more than 15,000 members and 4,000 mentors and is incredibly active in supporting the development of our female colleagues.

The support of women by other women is vital. In 2017, we introduced a pilot scheme where we matched female managers with a senior sponsor. Since then, 12 per cent of those involved have been promoted to a senior role. That in itself is encouraging, but I'm really thrilled to see how much these women are now giving back by developing and nurturing others in the Group.

I also see encouraging progress in some of our customers' businesses. That's important, because supporting more women to lead their own enterprise is imperative.

At Lloyds, we're pleased to help Britain prosper through programmes like our partnership with the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE). This provides grant funding and, crucially, mentoring and has helped almost 2,000 people start and scale up their social enterprises.

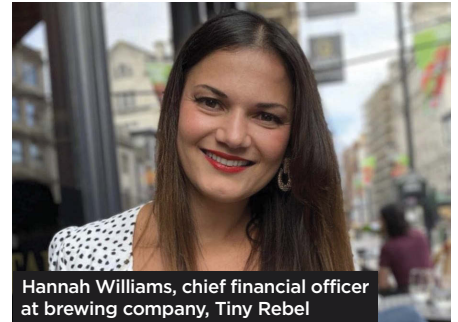
More than 60 per cent of SSE graduates have been women – people like Dr Rose Deakin, who runs her own one woman enterprise, The Crop Club. With the help of Loughborough University and the SSE, it's now an award-winning company that supplies eco promotional gifts and growing kits for individuals, communities and businesses.



Rosie Ginday MBE, founder of Miss Macaroon



Trainees on the MacsMAD (Macaroons that make a difference) course in Birmingham



Hannah Williams, chief financial officer at brewing company, Tiny Rebel



Dr Rose Deakin, founder of The Crop Club



Inspiring the next generation of growers: planting one of The Crop Club's outdoor growing kits

Another great example is Rosie Ginday, founder of Miss Macaroon. Not only does the business produce delicious macaroons, but Rosie reinvests the profits to provide training and jobs for long term unemployed young people. As the only patisserie in the world to be able to Pantone match macaroons exactly to corporate colours, Miss Macaroon's clients include Instagram, Google, KPMG – and Lloyds Banking Group.

Networking is often another barrier female entrepreneurs face. It's something people like Hannah Williams, of the Tiny Rebel brewery in Newport, south Wales tell us is hugely important, saying: "As a woman in business,

it's not easy to build your network and the opportunities to do so are often intimidating or feel too formal.

"At an International Women's Day event last year, I met Carys Williams, Lloyds Banking Group's Ambassador for Wales. We came up with the idea of hosting a jeans and t-shirt networking event in Wales. Our aim is to create a network of people who build each other's confidence, understand the specific challenges women face and lift each other up at every opportunity"

So let's unleash the potential of every one of our women. The arguments are clear, they are economic, but fundamentally, it's simply the right thing to do.

ELEANOR LAING

Elected the chair of Ways and Means earlier this year, Dame Eleanor has been a deputy Speaker since 2013. The Conservative MP for Epping Forest since 1997, Laing was the first female president of the union at Edinburgh University where she read law, and qualified as a solicitor. A former special adviser, Laing also worked in public relations before winning her seat. Prior to her election as a deputy Speaker, she held many roles on the Opposition frontbench, including as shadow minister for Economic Affairs; Women; Scotland and Justice.



REBECCA LONG-BAILEY

One of three candidates vying to become leader of the Labour party, Rebecca Long-Bailey has become a leading figure in Her Majesty's Opposition. Elected MP for Salford and Eccles in 2015, she joined the front bench under Jeremy Corbyn in September 2015 as Shadow minister for the Treasury. In June 2016, she was promoted to Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and in February 2017, she joined the Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Business Secretary. Long-Bailey, who studied Politics and Sociology at Manchester Metropolitan University before taking part-time law conversion courses, became a solicitor in 2007, where she specialised in commercial law, commercial property and NHS contracts.



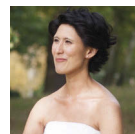
CAROLINE LUCAS

Britain's first Green MP, the party's first leader and a former MEP, Caroline Lucas won the seat of Brighton Pavilion in 2010.

As well as achieving a first-class in English literature from Exeter University, she also has a PhD in English and women's studies.

A former policy adviser for Oxfam and the Department for International Development, she was an MEP from 1999 until she stood down in 2010.

A member of the national council of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, a matron of the Women's Environmental Network, she has campaigned a wide range of green issues from animal welfare, to international trade and climate change.



CAT LITTLE

Director general finance at the MoD since 2017, Little is the principal financial advisor for defence, responsible for the overall budget and forecasting within the ministry. Prior to this appointment she was the director of finance and planning at the Ministry of Justice. A graduate of the University of Birmingham, and a qualified accountant, Little worked for PwC for 11 years before joining the civil service. The MoD's race champion, Little is also part of the LGBT network, and acts as the finance fast stream sponsor across government.



POLLY MACKENZIE

Polly Mackenzie is the chief executive of Demos, an independent educational charity. After graduating from Cambridge in 2002 with a degree in English, Mackenzie worked at Property Week, where she was chief reporter. She joined the Liberal Democrats in 2004, where she held several roles, including working for Nick Clegg and helping to write the 2010 Coalition Agreement. In 2010, she became a special adviser as Director of Policy Innovation in No 10, where she worked until the 2015 general election. After leaving government, she helped establish the operations of the Women's Equality party, and founded the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute.

BRONWEN MADDUX

Sought-after in the media for her expertise, Bronwen Maddox has been director of the Institute for Government think tank since September 2016. For the previous six years, she was editor and chief executive of *Prospect*, the monthly current affairs magazine. Her career in journalism saw her work at the *Financial Times*, where she carried out award-winning investigations and wrote economics editorials, before moving to *The Times*, where she was chief foreign commentator, foreign editor and US editor. The Oxford PPE graduate started out her career in the City, during which time she worked as a director of Kleinwort Benson Securities. Among other accolades, Maddox is a non-executive board member of the Law Commission.

THERESA MAY

Theresa May became Britain's second only woman prime minister when she succeeded David Cameron on 13 July 2016. During her three years in office, she led the negotiations for Britain's exit from the European Union. Before entering Downing St, May was the longest-serving Home Secretary for more than 60 years. The Oxford graduate worked at the Bank of England and the Association for Payment Clearing Services before entering parliament as MP for Maidenhead in 1997. During her career, May has served as the first woman chair of the Conservatives and held numerous frontbench roles. She was the first of her intake to serve in the Shadow Cabinet when she was appointed Shadow Education and Employment Secretary in 1999.



Louise Haywood-Schiefer, Paul Heathfield



EMILY MAITLIS

The lead presenter of *BBC Newsnight*, her explosive questioning of Prince Andrew last November was a media sensation before it was even broadcast, winning Maitlis TV news presenter of the year and scoop of the year at the 2020 RTS Television Awards, and securing her reputation as one of the most talented TV journalists of her generation. Born in Canada and raised in Sheffield, she is a multi-lingual Cambridge graduate, speaking Spanish, Italian, French and Mandarin.

MARIA MILLER

One of the 2005 intake of Conservative MPs, Maria Miller was quickly promoted up the party's ranks. Six months after being elected to represent Basingstoke, Miller was made shadow minister for education. She served in two more frontbench roles while in opposition, before being made a DWP minister in the Coalition Government in May 2010. She was appointed Culture Secretary in September 2012, where she remained until 2014. For four years from June 2015, she served as chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee. A former marketing executive, Miller became director for the Rowland Group in 1999.





AMANDA MILLING

Amanda Milling's first front-bench role came as deputy chief whip in July 2019. The UCL grad, who built up a successful career in market research, was elected as Conservative MP for Cannock Chase in 2015. In January 2018, Milling was made an assistant government whip, and was promoted to deputy chief whip under Boris Johnson eighteen months later. In February 2020, Milling was promoted to chairman of the Conservative party and minister without portfolio. In doing so, she was appointed to the Privy Council.

MUNIRA MIRZA

Munira Mirza advised Boris Johnson before becoming deputy mayor for education and culture in London. Prior to that, she worked as development director for Policy Exchange. While in the role, she edited a collection of essays, *Culture Vultures: is UK Arts Policy Damaging the Arts*, and wrote *Living Apart Together: British Muslims and the Paradox of Multiculturalism*. In 2012, Palgrave Macmillan published her book *The Politics of Culture: The Case for Universalism*. In July 2019, she was appointed Director of the No 10 Policy Unit.



PENNY MORDAUNT

Penny Mordaunt became the first woman to be appointed Defence Secretary when she entered the MoD in May 2019. Elected MP for Portsmouth North in 2010, the Royal Navy Reservist has become known for her expertise on defence. She was made minister for the Armed Forces in 2015 (the first woman to serve in the role) before moving to the DWP in 2016. Her first Cabinet job came as International Development Secretary. In February 2020, she was appointed Paymaster General. Before politics, Mordaunt worked in business and communications across the private, public and charitable sectors. In 2006, she was appointed director of Diabetes UK.



Louise Haywood-Schiefer

LAYLA MORAN

Layla Moran became Britain's first Member of Parliament of Palestinian descent when she was elected to represent Oxford West and Abingdon in June 2017. Later that month, she was appointed Lib Dem spokesperson for education, science and young people. Impressing on the backbenches, Moran ruled out running to replace Vince Cable in May 2019, but is now considering a bid to succeed Jo Swinson as party leader. In August, she was promoted to Lib Dem spokesperson on Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. She is Britain's first openly pansexual MP.





KARIE MURPHY

Karie Murphy has served as a core member of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership team since 2016. In October 2019, the Labour leader's chief of staff was seconded to Labour HQ to help lead the party's efforts in a general election. She has worked as office manager for Tom Watson, the former deputy Labour leader, when he was an MP for West Bromwich East. Murphy was a nurse before becoming a trade union official for Unison. In January 2020, she was nominated for a peerage, which is currently under review.

LISA NANDY

Touted early on in her parliamentary career as a potential Labour leader, Lisa Nandy was elected MP for Wigan in 2010. In doing so, she became the constituency's first female and first Asian representative in the Commons. Under Ed Miliband, she served as a shadow education minister, and in 2015, she took on her first Shadow Cabinet role as Shadow Energy and Climate Change Secretary. In 2018, Nandy helped set up the think tank, Centre for Towns. She was the first to announce her candidacy to replace Jeremy Corbyn as party leader. In February 2020, she made the final ballot, and is one of three people in the race to become Labour leader.



CAROLINE NOKES

Caroline Nokes, the newly appointed chair of parliament's Women and Equalities Committee, has been an MP for Romsey and Southampton North since 2010.

In her parliamentary career, she has served as a minister at the DWP and the Cabinet Office, and from January 2018 to July 2019, she worked in the Home Office as Immigration minister.

After graduating from the University of Sussex with a degree in politics, she worked as a police adviser to her father, Roy Perry, then a member of the European Parliament.

Before entering politics, she was chief executive of the National Pony Society, an animal welfare charity. She was a councillor in Test Valley from 1999 to 2010.



FRANCES O'GRADY

The first woman General Secretary of the TUC, O'Grady has served as a member of the Low Pay Commission, the High Pay Centre, the Resolution Foundation's Commission on Living Standards, the Commission on Economic Justice and the government's National Retraining Partnership.

Before she joined the TUC as a Campaign's Officer in 1994, she worked for the Transport and General Workers' Union, where she campaigned for a minimum wage.

A graduate of politics and modern history from Manchester University, O'Grady launched the TUC's unionlearn, which now helps a quarter of a million workers into learning every year.



LAURA PARKER

A former private secretary to Jeremy Corbyn, Laura Parker became the National Coordinator of Momentum, a grassroots organisation affiliated to the Labour party, in November 2017. Parker, who speaks Spanish, Italian, French, Romanian, Bulgarian and Brazilian Portuguese, started out in the European wing of the civil service fast stream and has worked in NGOs in Bulgaria and Italy. In 2004 she joined Save the Children before moving to Absolute Return for Kids. From 2014-2016, she served as CEO of Children and Families Across Borders. Parker joined the Leader's Office in May 2016.



PRITI PATEL

The first BAME woman home secretary, and the Conservative Party's first Asian woman MP, Patel has held a number of senior ministerial positions including international development secretary. A graduate of economics from Keele University, she also holds an MSc in British Government and Politics from Essex University. Before winning the seat of Witham in 2010, Patel was a director of the lobbying and public relations firm Weber Shandwick and was corporate relations director for Diageo. A eurosceptic, Patel was a member of Vote Leave's campaign committee in 2016.

CAROLYN QUINN

The first woman to chair the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Quinn is best known as BBC Radio 4 political correspondent and presenter. Currently *Westminster Hour* host, she is also an occasional presenter on the *World Tonight* and *PM*. A trained French teacher, she is a former presenter of the *Today* programme.



KATIE PERRIOR

Katie Perrior first worked with Theresa May when she was chair of the Conservative party in 2002. At the time, Perrior was a senior media advisor for the Conservatives. Fourteen years later, when May became prime minister, she worked as Director of Communications at No 10 Downing Street. Perrior has held roles at ITV and Channel 4, while she also worked in senior public relations for Live8 in 2005. A former adviser to David Davis, Perrior co-founded iNHouse Communications in 2006, where she worked on Boris Johnson's 2008 bid for the London mayoralty. She has chaired the organisation since leaving No 10 in May 2017.



ANGELA RAYNER

Shadow education secretary since 2016, Rayner is currently favourite in the race for deputy leader of the Labour Party, having received around four times the nominations from MPs as the other contenders. Raised on a council estate in Stockport, a former union representative and carer, Rayner overcame many life challenges to become MP for Ashton-under-Lyne in 2015. Despite leaving school with no qualifications, pregnant at 16 and told "in no uncertain term" she would amount to nothing, Rayner was appointed a party Whip within four months of being elected – rising quickly through the shadow ministerial ranks to her current position.



Louise Haywood-Schiefer, Jon Enoch

RACHEL REEVES

BEIS committee chair since 2017, Reeves was elected as the Labour MP for Leeds West in 2010. Raised by a single-parent mother, she read PPE at Oxford, before going on to work as an economist. As shadow work and pensions secretary under Ed Miliband, from 2013 to 2015, she campaigned against government plans to speed up the equalisation of the state pension age, and changes to tax and benefits, arguing they would hit women hardest.



Paul Heathfield/Sky

MANDU REID

When she succeeded Sophie Walker as leader of the Women's Equality Party in April 2019, Mandu Reid became the first person of colour to lead a national political party in British history. Reid spent much of her career on the Greater London Authority, where she was responsible for the £75m City Operations Programmes for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. She remains a fund manager for the Mayor of London's Sports Legacy Programme and works as a mentor for the Women in Sport programme. In February 2015, she founded a charitable NGO called the Cup Effect, an advocacy organisation that seeks to tackle period poverty around the world.



CARYS ROBERTS

Economist Carys Roberts is the executive director of the IPPR and editor of *Progressive Review*, the think tank's journal of politics and ideas. Her career has taken her to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the Social Mobility Foundation and the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce. She has a degree in PPE from Oxford University and a master's in Social Policy from LSE. Roberts has appeared on national and regional broadcast media, as well as writing for a number of publications. She joined the IPPR in 2015 as a researcher, before being promoted to senior economist and later chief economist and head of the Centre for Economic Justice.



SOPHY RIDGE

Sky News political correspondent, Ridge has presented her own show, *Sophy Ridge on Sunday*, since 2017. Prior to joining the broadcaster in 2011 she was a journalist at the *News of the World* after securing a place on the newspaper's graduate training programme during her final year at Oxford University. An English Literature graduate, she won Broadcast Journalist of the Year at the Words by Women awards in 2016.



BETH RIGBY

Political editor of Sky News since 2019, Rigby has previously worked as a newspaper journalist for the Financial Times and The Times. A graduate with a first-class degree in social and political science from Cambridge, she also has an MA in Latin American studies from the University of London. Before she joined Sky News in 2016, she won awards for her work at the FT as a retail correspondent and hedge fund writer. She was also chair of the Parliamentary lobby in 2015.



SIENNA RODGERS

Sienna Rodgers has become a go-to figure for all things related to the Labour party. Since February 2018, she has edited the website LabourList, after working as a constituency assistant to Labour MP Tulip Siddiq. She graduated with a first-class honours degree in politics from the University of York in 2015. Previously she has interned at BBC Good Food, the Ham & High, the Islington Gazette and Hackney Gazette, and was the acting online features editor at House & Garden. Rodgers is a regular pundit on television and radio.



LAURA SAINSBURY

Laura Sainsbury recently joined the Royal Bank of Scotland's public affairs team. Since November 2015, she has served as chair of the Women in Public Affairs Committee. During her career, she has worked at FTI Consulting and Newington Communications. After graduating from the University of Oxford with a degree in PPE, Sainsbury interned at Ernst & Young before taking on a role as ministerial portfolio officer at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She worked as a political journalist for Total Politics magazine and news website PoliticsHome. In 2019 she was listed as "one to watch" in Brummell magazine.



LIZ SAVILLE-ROBERTS

Liz Saville Roberts is the leader of Plaid Cymru in the House of Commons, and the only Plaid woman MP ever. She was first elected as MP for Dwyfor Meirionnydd in 2015, and has served on the Welsh Affairs Committee. Saville Roberts worked as a journalist for Caernarfon & Denbigh Herald and as a lecturer, project manager and director with further education colleges in Wales. In 2004, she became a member of Gwynedd Council for Morfa Nefyn and Edern.



FRANCES SCOTT



In 2013, Frances Scott founded 50:50 Parliament, a campaign calling for better gender balance at Westminster. Three years later, she launched #AskHerToStand to inspire, encourage and support women along the path towards parliament. Scott is an antenatal teacher with the NCT charity, where she has worked for more than 22 years and helped support thousands of parents through pregnancy, birth and early parenthood. In September 1996, she founded the Birth Education Network. After university, she initially worked in the hotel and tourism industry.

KATY SEARLE

Head of BBC Westminster since 2017, editor Searle has overall responsibility for political newsgathering, managing a 90-strong team. She has worked for the corporation for over three decades in both radio and television, joining Radio 4 and the BBC World Service in 1998. Rising through the ranks in a male (and Oxbridge) dominated profession, Searle says she was told to get a "good degree". Deciding however that "hard work and perseverance would win the day", she is now one of the most influential women in her field.



NAZ SHAH

After a fractious election campaign against the incumbent, George Galloway, Naz Shah was elected MP for Bradford West in 2015. Shah, a former chair of Sharing Voices Bradford, a mental health charity, is a former NHS commissioner. Shah had an extraordinary and challenging upbringing, which included being sent to Pakistan aged 12 by her mother to escape her mother's abusive partner, whom she later killed. Shah, only 18, brought up her 14 and 11-year-old brother and sister while her mother served a twenty-year sentence. In 2018, Shah was appointed shadow diversity minister. Shah, a former PPS to John McDonnell, sat as an independent for three months in 2016 pending an investigation into a post on Facebook.



SAM SMETHERS

An expert in equality and gender issues, Sam Smethers has been the chief executive of the Fawcett Society since August 2015. Under her leadership, Fawcett secured a landmark victory in 2018 with the introduction of gender pay gap reporting by companies that have more than 250 employees. For more than six years, she worked as chief executive of Grandparents Plus, and has also worked at the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. Smethers has nine years' experience working in Parliament and was a Fawcett trustee between 2007 and 2010. She was also a trustee of Gingerbread for seven years.

BARONESS SMITH OF BASILDON

A widely admired leader of the opposition in the House of Lords, Angela Smith was the Labour MP for Basildon from 1997 until she lost her seat in 2010. A former minister for the third sector and social exclusion under Gordon Brown, she became a life peer in 2010. Elected unopposed as Lords leader in 2015, she has since led a highly successful Lords operation, inflicting several damaging defeats on Theresa May's administration. An animal rights campaigner, Smith is a patron of the charity, Freedom for Animals.



NICOLA STURGEON

Aged 16, Nicola Sturgeon became an SNP member. The former solicitor entered politics 13 years later in 1999, after she was elected as a Glasgow regional MSP to the new Holyrood parliament. Her rise in the party was meteoric; in September 2004, she was appointed deputy leader of the SNP. In May 2007, she was appointed deputy first minister after the SNP emerged as the largest party at the Holyrood election. She took over from Alex Salmond in November 2014 as SNP leader and first minister of Scotland. At the 2019 general election, her party secured 48 of 59 available constituencies in Scotland.



CARRIE SYMONDS

Carrie Symonds worked in communications after graduating from the University of Warwick with a first-class honours degree in theatre studies and history of art. This was followed by six months working for former Richmond MP Zac Goldsmith. In January 2011, she worked as a political press adviser for the Conservative party, during which time she worked on the 'BackBoris2012' campaign. In June 2013, she was made head of broadcast for the Conservatives, followed by stints as special adviser to John Whittingdale in DCMS and Sajid Javid as communities secretary. She was made director of communications for the Conservative party in June 2017. She is engaged to Boris Johnson, the prime minister. Symonds currently works as a senior adviser to the Oceana Project.

EMILY THORNBERRY

Although recently eliminated from the Labour leadership race, after failing to secure enough nominations, Thornberry is popular figure among grassroots activists. Currently shadow foreign secretary, she has held several senior positions including shadow defence secretary. A barrister and anti-poverty campaigner, she is known for her dramatic oratory and mischievous wit. First elected to represent Islington South and Finsbury in 2005, she was a founder member of the Parental Leave Campaign. Comprehensive school-educated, and raised on a council estate in Guildford, Thornberry read law at the University of Kent.



CAMILLA TOMINEY

Associate editor for both politics and the royals at the Telegraph, Tominey is a journalist and broadcaster. A TV pundit, she frequently appears on Question Time and Radio 4's Any Questions? Prior to the Telegraph, she was at the Sunday Express for 15 years, where she was political and royal editor and a columnist. In 2016 she was nominated for Scoop of the Year at the 2016 British Press Awards for breaking the news about Prince Harry's relationship with Meghan Markle.

LIZ TRUSS

Among the first of the 2010 intake of Conservative MPs to enter government, Liz Truss has been an omnipresent figure on the frontbench over the past eight years. She started out as a minister in the Department for Education in 2012, before joining the Cabinet as EFRA secretary in July 2014. She has since served as justice secretary, chief secretary to the Treasury, and in July 2019, she was made secretary of state for international trade. Truss, who has represented South West Norfolk in parliament for nearly ten years, is also minister for women and equalities.





SOPHIE WALKER

While a journalist at Reuters, Sophie Walker reported from London, Paris, Washington, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. After her daughter was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, Walker started a blog to give voice to her daughter's experience, and her own journey as a parent. This was followed with a book, *Grace Under Pressure*, released in September 2013. She is a patron of Ambitious about Autism. In July 2015, Walker became founding leader of the Women's Equality Party. She stood for the WEP at the London mayoral election in 2016 and in Shipley at the 2017 general election. In January 2019, she stood down as leader. She is the chief executive of the Young Women's Trust.

BARONESS WARSI

A former solicitor with the Crown Prosecution Service, Warsi was the second of five daughters born in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, to Pakistani immigrants. Ennobled in 2007, she has held several roles including co-chair of the Conservative Party; FCO minister, and faith and communities minister, and was the first female Muslim to attend cabinet. Critical of its record on anti-Muslim racism, Warsi has been outspoken in her demands for the Conservatives to hold an independent inquiry into Islamophobia within the party.



CLEO WATSON

Cleo Watson was head of outreach for Vote Leave, the official Brexit campaign at the 2016 EU referendum. The 31-year-old entered Downing Street under Theresa May, where she worked as a political adviser. Watson currently serves as the head of the prime minister's priorities and campaigns in No 10, where, according to the *Mail on Sunday*, she runs a special taskforce that will fast-track new northern Tory MPs into government roles.

HELEN WHATELY

Appointed minister for social care in February 2020, Helen Whately has been handed one of the more important briefs in government. A former minister in DCMS, Whately was elected in 2015 as MP for Faversham and Mid Kent. While in Parliament, she has served on the Health Social Care Committee and was chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health. The Oxbridge PPE graduate worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers and AOL before becoming a media adviser to Huge Swire, the former shadow culture secretary. Before her election, she worked in the healthcare division of McKinsey & Company.





ROSIE WINTERTON

Dame Rosie Winterton is one of three Deputy Speakers of the House of Commons. After entering parliament as MP for Doncaster Central in 1997, Winterton held several ministerial roles under Gordon Brown. She was Shadow Leader of the House of Commons at the start of the 2010 parliament, before being made Chief Whip of the Labour party, a position she held for six years. Prior to entering politics, Winterton held a number of roles for John Prescott, including Head of Office for the Deputy Party Leader. She was made a Dame in the 2016 New Year Honours and was elected a deputy speaker following the 2017 election.

CAROLINE WHEELER

The deputy political editor of the *Sunday Times* since 2017, Wheeler was previously at the *Sunday Express*.

After studying political science and government at the University of York, she took newspaper journalism at the University of Wales, Cardiff. Specifically acknowledged in an emergency Parliamentary debate as a “brilliant investigative” journalist after the government announced a full inquiry into the contaminated blood scandal, Wheeler has worked to uncover the true facts of the story for almost two decades.



RACHEL WOLF

Rachel Wolf’s first job in politics came as a researcher to an MP named Boris Johnson, who was shadow higher education minister at the time. This sparked a career in education policy that saw her create the New Schools Network in June 2009, a charity that helped implement the Government’s free schools programme. In 2019, she co-authored the Conservative party’s election manifesto. From September 2015 to August 2016, she was an adviser to David Cameron on Education, Innovation and Science, and Women and Equalities, before she helped found Public First, where she leads the agency’s policy work. The Cambridge graduate was also a senior vice president at Amplify from 2013-2015, a technology company based in New York City.



ESME WREN

Appointed editor of the BBC’s *Newsnight* in 2018, the show won both Daily News Programme of the Year and Interview of the Year (for its Prince Andrew scoop in November) at the 2020 RTS Television Awards. She is *Newsnight*’s second female editor in the flagship programme’s 38-year history. A former head of politics at Sky News, she was credited by her previous employer as having played a “very critical role” in negotiating behind the scenes to deliver its “highly successful” election and referendum specials.



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