

Challenge yourself as well as others

So another [International Womens Day](#) may have passed but the core message of this year's celebration, **choose to challenge**, is one to embrace for all of us who strive to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in 2021.

Change comes through willingness to challenge the norm, to have the confidence to talk about and stand up to injustices in our society. And the more people who are willing to challenge, the quicker we will see lasting change happening in front of our eyes. In HDN's blog yesterday we shone a light on two world leaders, Jacinda Ardern, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Estonia's new PM Kaja Kallas, two women who have challenged themselves to effect positive change in their nations.

You can't challenge others unless you have first challenged yourself. And that principle applies in leadership situations just as much as it does in the fight to tackle intolerance. A board member who reaches higher will bring people with them, while any campaigner's voice is so much clearer and louder if they lead by example.

Think about your actions and your words and how other people might see them, and then have the confidence to challenge the wrongs you see in front of you.

Welcome to the team John



HDN's newest board member, **John MacPherson**, is yet to meet us face to face, but following a virtual get-together with CEO Mushtaq and Chair Debansu Das, the London based finance and technology specialist has climbed on board.

John brings a wealth of experience from his career in the City, spanning over 25 years and recently including work in the housing sector, and he is determined to help HDN to continue its growth in an increasingly digital world.

"There has been a shift in awareness around equality and inclusion across all sectors," he says. "Everything has moved on in the digital arena and biases have become more obvious. We need to follow through on this momentum when we return to a post pandemic way of working."

Mentoring Celebration June 2021

Following on from our first ever Virtual Mentoring Celebration last September, we're already planning for the 2021 event, back in its traditional June spot. 2020 threw up a monumental challenge for us all and, at this time in last year's calendar, we really had no idea what the immediate, medium and even long term future held.

Thanks to the remarkable vaccine programme we have more certainty now and, as we are keen to celebrate with our mentors and mentees in June, we're ready to go virtual again with confidence after the 2020 event went so well, thanks to a wonderful team of organisers, brilliant speakers and all the attendees who helped to make the day special.

We'll meet again in person before too long, but in the meantime we're looking forward to seeing you all again on the **10th June 2021** and will be posting more details around the event on our website and future newsletters.

We are also offering sponsorship opportunities for this event and if you are interested in seeing the options on our sponsorship package please contact: stuart@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk

March Online Events



Midlands Diversity Group meeting: Wednesday 10th March 10:30am to 12:00pm

Join us to share best practice and promote ED&I excellence at community, organisation and sector level.

Contact us with any questions on 01484 652606 or email info@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk

Or follow the link below to book your place.



Webinar: Is Housing the Key to Social Mobility? Tuesday 23rd March 11:00am to 12:30pm

More information to follow on our website - link below.

[For details of all our events CLICK HERE](#)

What We Do at HDN Contact us to see if we can help

We work with organisations on a range of equality, diversity and inclusion issues. These include management and leadership training, board and executive team discussions on Black Lives Matter and/or the pandemic, and reviewing and helping on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans and Strategies.

Contact [Mushtaq Khan](#) for further details.

What's the team been talking about?

Well, the end of our team meeting yesterday was probably mirrored nationwide when Shuang asked, 'What do we think of the Royal Family?' For legal reasons we want to steer clear of commenting on the Oprah interview! But we're a diverse bunch here at HDN and never short of opinions.

In a nutshell; the Royal Family might well be more popular around the world than in the UK, certain factions of the British Press stoke intolerance (yes really!). We quite like the Queen and think the institution would be in a pickle without her.

How about you?

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