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ARAB WOMEN of the YEAR 2015



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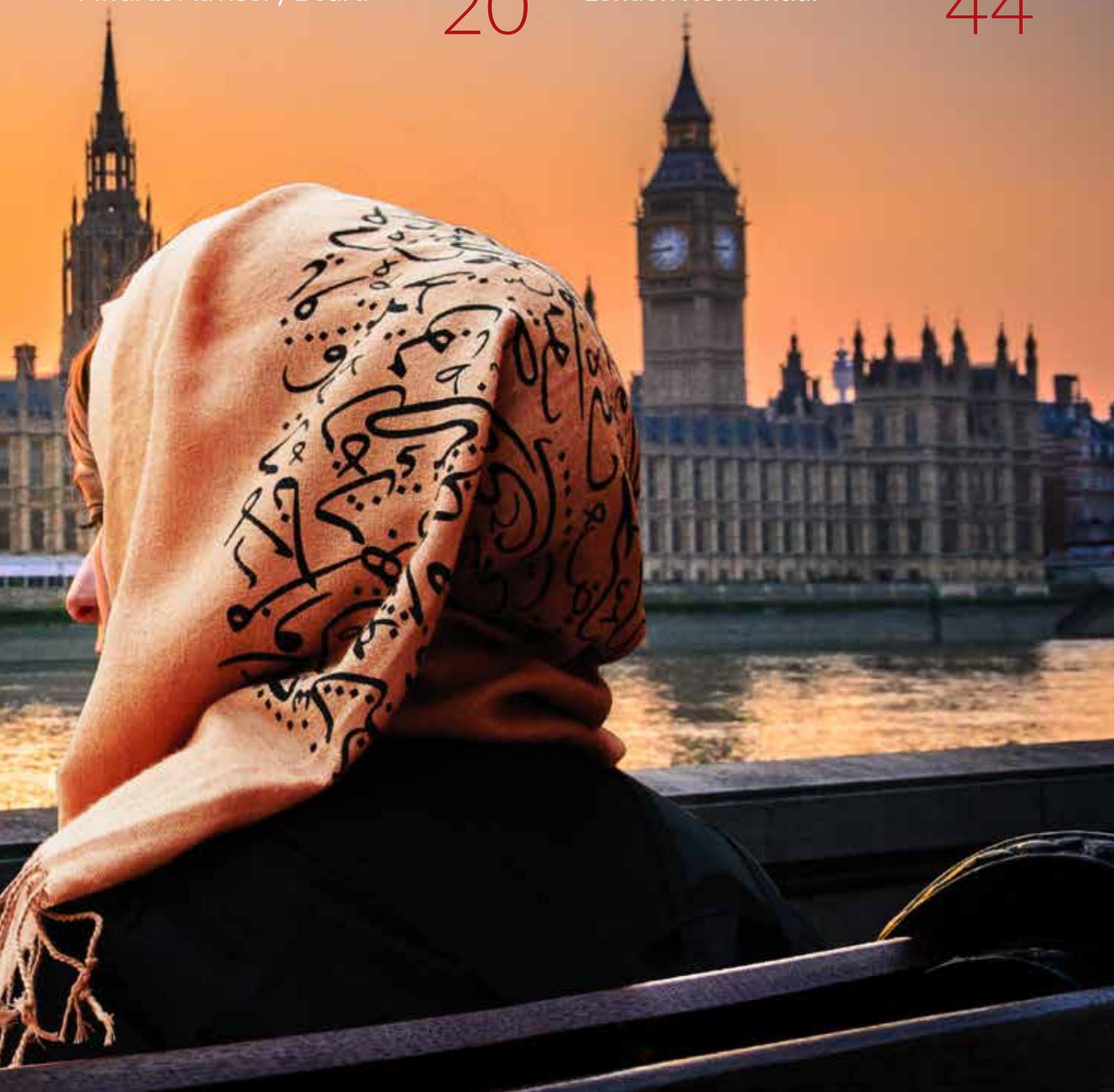
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ARAB
WOMEN
of the
YEAR
2015

It gives me great pleasure to write the foreword for this very special edition of the London Arabia magazine which is published to celebrate the Arab Woman of the Year Awards 2015.

Although Arab science, culture and trade have contributed to the global economy for millennia, the growing development of Arab influence in many fields has only been accelerating for less than a century and Arab impact on the global economy is now substantial. Many people simply think about the Gulf States, Saudi Arabia and oil when they think of the Arab world. However, there are 22 Arabic speaking and cultural countries spread from North Africa through the Middle East and down to the Horn of Africa.

The total contribution made by these important nations is more than oil and includes education, agriculture, science, design and literature. Over the last two decades the input from Arab women has grown substantially in all sectors including media, sports, education, business, medicine, architecture and entrepreneurship.

We are delighted to collaborate with the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, London and Partners, and to benefit from the support of the Mayor of London in presenting the very first 'Arab Women of the Year' Awards. It is important and right that we should celebrate the achievements of Arab women across so many of these fields.

London is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world and is a hub for global business and increasingly, partnership with the Arab World.

Regent's University London, Europe's most cosmopolitan university, where we value our students and alumni from across the Arab world, was proud to have been selected as Education Partner for this most prestigious event.

Professor Aldwyn Cooper

Chairman

Arab Women of the Year Awards 2015

Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive

Regent's University London.





It is a great pleasure to support the first Arab Women of the Year Awards in the heart of our great city. I am delighted that this event will highlight the tremendous achievements by Arab women in London and from the around the world. It will showcase a diversity of incredible talent in a multitude of arenas and promote the key role Arab women play in society.

This is also a further opportunity to strengthen our cultural, economic and political ties. Our economies are already linked through major investments in real estate and infrastructure that include the Olympic Village, London Gateway, the Shard and the London Array. And we are also welcoming an ever-increasing number of Arab students to our city.

We cherish these links, I know that you will be made to feel welcome today and I am sure that the event will be a fabulous occasion.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London



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Taylor Wimpey Central London

It gives us at Taylor Wimpey Central London great pleasure to partner with the Arab Women of the Year awards as the headline sponsor. We look forward to supporting this showcase of the diversity and successes of the Arab World, and the aspirational and enterprising women that shape it.

Taylor Wimpey Central London is the boutique division of one of the largest residential developers in the UK, the FTSE 100-listed Taylor Wimpey Plc. We specialise in creating distinctive luxury properties across London's prime Zones 1 and 2 locations, each unique yet united in our ideals of expert design, high quality craftsmanship, practicality and investment security. Our current portfolio includes leading developments in Westminster, Paddington, Kensington, Kings Cross and The City.

London is a truly global city and Taylor Wimpey Central London's markets span the world. We have been working with individuals and businesses across the Arab regions for many years and the Arab Women of the Year Awards is a great opportunity to show our support for these nations. I am personally especially pleased to be associated with celebrating successful women in business and I am inspired by the talented women nominated for these illustrious awards.

Ingrid Skinner

Managing Director

Taylor Wimpey Central London



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Arab British Relations



Historically, the Arab world and Britain have had a long standing and prosperous relationship. The mutual appreciation and respect between the two regions is mirrored by the governments in both regions recognising the investment and trading potential in the regions and reacting accordingly by introducing targets for further investments in the regions.

Great Britain has greatly benefitted from the rich influence of the Arab world throughout history. Whilst Britain in the Middle Ages experienced a period of cultural and economic stagnation, the Arab world in comparison was preserving and building upon ancient leanings and knowledge.

Formal relations between England and the Arab world have existed since the 1550s. Queen Elizabeth I is said to have united with the Arabs over their shared interest in trade. As a result of this common interest, Elizabeth wisely went on to cement the alliances that her father King Henry VIII had made with the Arabs. One such alliance, ratified by

the Moroccans and English, ensured that any Muslim slaves rescued from Spanish ships by the English, would be granted safe passage and asylum in England and then repatriated back to the Arab world. The same was to happen if any English seamen were rescued by the Arabs. Furthermore, she made arrangements for a military expeditionary force of Janissary Marines to come to England's aid if the Spanish succeeded in landing their Great Armada in 1588. The alliances meant that there was an increase in trade and good will between England and the Middle East and an influx of luxury goods from the Arab world soon arrived in London at the end of the 16th century.





Throughout history, friendly relations between East and West have led to mutually beneficial long lasting business relations between Arabs and the British, establishing a foundation which remains until today. Investment and trading is a strong and growing element of the relationship and this is due to some would argue the stable political system and transparent legal structure in London. These factors act as huge incentive to Middle Eastern investors as they promise secure long term returns.

London's popularity in the Arab world is also another prominent factor and it is only growing, as many Arabs view London as the capital of Europe and a home from home. Trade between the UK and MENA region exceeded £30 billion in 2014 and continues to rise in recent years as Arab investments in the UK and particularly London increase at an extraordinary level. Trade between UK and the MENA has increased by 30% in the last two years. Government targets have put bilateral trade figures at reaching £12-13 billion by 2016.

Bilateral trade between Britain and the Arab world is said to have Exceeded 30 Bilions in recent years, which is the same as the Chinese and Indian exports combined together.

The Arab world is actively engaged in developing greater opportunities for women to make use of their education, skills and business at all levels, from the office to the board room of the most powerful corporations. In fact, Arab women now are more visible at every level of business and public life in the Arab world, where they are now demonstrating their leadership skills.

Arab women have also thrived due to the relations formed throughout history between Brits and Arabs. For example, women in business in the Arab world receive mentoring and expert advice from counterparts in the UK and other G8 countries as part of a new scheme set out Department for International Development in 2013.

Alongside the mentoring programme, a new 'Arab Women in Business Challenge Fund' will improve the competitiveness of women entrepreneurs in the Arab world, helping them to take advantage of new opportunities and markets. This will also provide their UK and G8 equivalents with potential new contacts, networks, suppliers and markets.

The UK created a task force of legal experts who worked to identify legal, regulatory and social barriers that limit opportunities for women in business in the Arab world, to help governments in the region on how to remove these barriers. Arab Women across North Africa and the ME are playing a significant role in facilitating the development of new global markets. The creation of new markets for trade has therefore opened the gates for new business in the UK to form a partnership with Arabic countries which in turn has promoted sound economic development, has created job opportunities and reduced poverty.

And this in turn means opportunities for UK businesses as new trading partners and markets are created. Arab women are at the forefront of an economic transformation throughout the Middle East, acting as agents of change in business, government and society as a whole.





Awards Advisory Board



Professor Aldwyn Cooper

Awards Advisory Chairman
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ARAB WOMEN of the YEAR 2015

Arab Women of the Year Awards

In our efforts to strengthen the cooperation between the United Kingdom and the countries of the Arab World and in a partnership with the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, London & Partners, Regent's University London and Supported by the Mayor of London. With the kind and generous help from our sponsors Taylor Wimpy Central London, Vertu, Godiva, JLL and Miller Harris we are here today launching the first Arab Women of the Year Awards.

The Arab Woman of the Year Awards aim to raise international awareness of the important achievements of Arab women and provide constructive role models for them and to highlight the important ties between London and the Arab World.

Over the past two decades there has been an important yet gradual development and continuation of empowerment of Arab women in the Arab World. Although they are still climbing a hill laden with stumbling blocks, they are inching closer to the top.

Women's economic participation has grown significantly in recent years in spite of some

cultural barriers. Women's achievements are emerging in many fields from the Middle East and North Africa. The prominent role played by Arab women in the world demonstrate their power in driving through change. Some push through political change and some push through economic change.

Investing in women's economic participation it is the key to unlocking the economic potential of the Arab world especially at a time when unemployment is rising and growth is falling in many parts of the region.

Nearly a billion women are projected to enter the global workforce in the next decade. Women already represent 40% of the workforce and more than half the world's university students.

Countries that want to fuel economic growth need to support the economic talents of their women to capitalise on these new opportunities and this has been successfully implemented in many regions in the Arab World. International development has a key role in developing markets globally and these markets are essential to creating jobs and addressing poverty.

This is primarily why we launched The Arab Women of the Year Awards. Women are the key to strengthening relations between Arab and other nations. When women's incomes are increased it leads to development benefits too.



H.E. Sheikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa

Achievement in Culture and Education

Sheikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa holds a Masters Degree in Political History from Sheffield University, UK.

In 2008, she took office as Minister of Culture and Information, with a mission to showcase, align and engage Bahrain's private sector with national projects in the promotion of heritage, culture and ultimately national identity. H.E was the first in Bahrain history to create a strategy to market Bahrain regionally and globally highlighted by her project "Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy" became an official listing as a world heritage site.

HE designed the innovative 'Invest in Culture' project to build a partnership between private enterprise and the Culture and National Heritage sector of the Ministry.

H.E. Sheikha Mai was also involved in sponsoring developmental projects such as the development and illumination of Arad, Bahrain, Riffa and Fort Bay. Furthermore she was actively involved in the creation of Bahrain's National Museum and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO.

Sheikha Mai prior to taking office in 2008 had received many awards due to her hard work, due diligence and success. In

2004 Sheikha Mai was the recipient of the "Distinguished Arab Woman in the field of Administrative Leadership" prize from the Centre of Woman Studies, Paris, and was also elected as one of the "50 Strongest Arab Women," in a Forbes magazine survey in 2005.

In 2008 Sheikha Mai received the legion d'honneur (equivalent to a knighthood) insignia in Arts and Literature from the Government of France, and received the 'Order of Merit' first class medal from His Majesty, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In 2010, Sheikha Mai was awarded the Noble Honour award for being a distinguished International personality in the field of Ideology and Culture by a royal decree from His Majesty Mohammed VI Al Sadis, King of Morocco. She was also acknowledged by the Committee Colbert Prize for Creativity and Heritage in Paris for playing a leading role in the fields of historical documentation, heritage preservation and cultural innovation and was named Gulf Media Personality by both the Gulf Society for the Press and Freedom of Information (absent fm).

Sheikha Mai is currently Minister of Culture & Information and continues her quest to preserve Bahrain's local history, raise awareness and accentuate Bahrain's heritage for the youth of today and tomorrow.



Magida El Roumi

Achievement in Music

Magida El Roumi is a Lebanese Soprano and an international icon in a near-European and Middle Eastern popular music (As quoted by music critic Peter Watrous).

The Diva's success is worldwide, the legendary artist is the pride of Lebanon and her voice conveys both devotion and world peace.

Throughout her career, the artist has released 14 albums that include golden hits such as: "Kalimat" (Words), "Ibhath Anni" (Look For Me) "Ya Beirut" (O Beirut), "Ouhibbouka Wa Ba'd" (I Love You And More), "E'tazalet El Gharam" (I Quit Love), "Habibi" (My Beloved), "Salawna" (We Forgot And Moved On), "Ghazal" (Flirtation), "Nour Men Nour" (The Light Of Light) and "Am Behlamak Ya Helm" (I'm Dreaming Of You).

The Diva starred in the Egyptian movie "Awdat Al Ibn" (The Return of the Prodigal Son) directed by the filmmaker Youssef Chahine, in which she sang 3 soundtracks.

The Diva has collaborated and performed 2 duets with international artists José Carreras "Light The Way" (Opening ceremony of the Asian Games, Doha) and Youssou N'Dour "Nous Sommes Les

Amis Du Monde" (Opening ceremony of Les Jeux Olympiques de la Francophonie, Beirut).

Magida has performed on many international stages (to name a few): Olympia, Palais des Congrès, Damascus Opera House, Athens Concert Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, Hunter College in New York, Place des Arts in Montréal, Detroit Fox Theatre and the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas.

Magida has received international awards such as: The Golden Cedar Award, The French National Assembly Shield, The National Shield of Honour of the Cedars, a Knight's Order awarded by the President of the Republic of Lebanon, The Médecins Sans Frontières Shield, The Honouring Shield awarded by her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, Ordre des Arts et des Lettres – insigne d'Officier / Officer Grade awarded by the President of the Republic of France.

Magida has been bestowed with several honorary titles: Good Will Ambassador for the United Nations, Ambassador of Borderless Education Activities in the UAE, Honourable Ambassador of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Humanitarian Ambassador of the Bvlgari- Save the Children Partnership.



Ahlam Mosteghanemi

Lifetime Achievement

Ahlam, at the age of 17, Ahlam Mosteghanemi was the first woman in Algeria to publish a compilation of poetry in the Arabic language. It was the beginning of a lifelong battle against sexism and dictatorship. She also inherited from her dad a deep concern for human rights and the fight against colonialism.

She later graduated from the Sorbonne with a doctorate in sociology in 1985.

She is the author of the bestselling trilogy: "The Bridges of Constantine", "Chaos of the Senses", and "The Dust of Promises" which sold more than 3 million copies.

She was described by Elle as "a literary phenomenon" and by the first Algerian president Ben Bella as "an Algerian sun that illuminates the Arab world"

Identified by Forbes as "the most successful Arabic writer and one of the ten most influential women in the Arab world"

Ahlam Mosteghanemi's novels have been adopted in the curricula of several universities and high schools worldwide, and dozens of university theses and research papers have been based upon her work. The French Ministry of Education has used parts of *Memory of the Flesh* for the French baccalaureate tests in 2003 in 15 countries where students chose Arabic as a second language. Her work has been translated into several foreign languages by prestigious publishing houses, including pocket books in French and English.

She lectured and worked as a visiting professor in many universities around the world including: The American University of Beirut, 1995 - University of Maryland, 1999 - University of Sorbonne, 2002 - Montpellier University, 2002 - University of Lyon, 2003 - Yale University, 2005 - MIT Boston, 2005 - University of Michigan, 2005.

She currently has more than 8 million fans on Facebook.



Yousra

Achievement in Cinema

Yousra is an Egyptian actress, singer and television star. She is known regionally and globally not only for her successful career in filmography and television, but also for being the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador as well as her recent collaboration and support to major development interventions of the League of Arab States and other UN agencies such as UNAIDS.

The famous star is also known for portraying humanitarian messages and key social issues such as poverty and gender relations through her movies and television series, which explains why she is considered as Egypt's most prominent actress.

In fact, very few in the Arab world do not know the Star who began her career back

in 1980 and has received many awards from regional and international film festivals. However, as she accepted the Coptic Orphans 2007 Leading by Example award, Yousra revealed that over the 50 awards that she has received this one was the most touching. As UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, she was awarded for her philanthropic and humanitarian work at the Coptic Orphans' fourth annual Gala and Awards Ceremony. Moreover, 'the star of the Middle East' was ranked 12th among the most influential Arab woman by Arabian Business, in 2013.

Today, Yousra continues to dedicate much of her life to humanitarian work. And whether she's an actress, singer, television star or a Goodwill Ambassador, she will always be considered as one of the most influential icons in the Middle East.



AISHA HUSSEIN ALFARDAN

Achievement in Business

Aisha Hussein Alfardan is a prominent Qatari businesswoman, Vice chairwoman of the Qatari Businesswomen Association. In 2006 Alfardan was ranked 24th on the Forbes list of the 50 Top Businesswomen in the Arab World, which recognized her success, prominence and ambition in the business world.

Aisha is the daughter of the renowned Qatari businessman, Hussein Alfardan—Chairman of Alfardan Group of Companies, and is following her father's footsteps as she has become one of the prominent businesswomen in the Middle East.

Aisha graduated from Qatar University in 1993, with a degree in English literature. She began her career in the Commercial Bank of Qatar where she worked for over nine years, during which she climbed the business ladder to become the Ladies Branch Manager.

In 2003, she joined Alfardan Group, to assist her father and brothers in running the family business; Aisha Hussein Alfardan claims her favorite part about working at Alfardan is "the challenge of continuing to build the legacy that her family has worked so hard to build".

As the Vice-Chairwoman of the Qatari Business Women Association, Alfardan has delivered a number of initiatives that aim to enhance the role of Qatari

businesswomen and their contribution to the economy, like Qatar Business Women Award which identifies and acknowledges the contributions Qatari women make to the country's society and economy through their professional and entrepreneurial achievements. This award focuses on women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and managerial skills within their fields and it has been run 3 times in 2009, 2011, and 2013 and also the annual Qatar International Businesswomen Forum that was successfully organized in 2010-2014 and has rapidly gained a unique status as a major annual event in Qatar and the region whether in terms of the size and level of participants, the relevance and rich nature of its topics and debates, and the expertise of its panelists and speakers.

Aisha Hussein Alfardan has been a prominent business woman in the Arab world, recognized for her contributions to the country of Qatar and to the world of business. Her achievements are not limited to the office, as she has become a role model for businesswomen in the Middle East, providing speeches and networking opportunities for women at business conferences. She has contributed greatly to the expansion of business in Qatar and has large visions for the continuation of progress in the future.



جمعية الغد للشباب
AlGhad Youth Association

HH Princess Nouf bint Faisal bin Turki Al Saud

Achievement in Community Service

Princess Nouf is a member of the Saudi royal family. Her Highness is active in charity and philanthropic societies. H.H. is a member in most of the social community associations. Princess Nouf strongly believes in the great potentials of the Saudi youth and hence that the population of Saudi Arabia is 70% under the age of 30! Realizing the impact of empowering the youth for a brighter future of the country, H.H. has founded Alghad Foundation for Youth in 2008. Alghad in Arabic means tomorrow.

Since its establishment, Alghad Foundation for Youth has held 5 major forums with many talented young speakers, and discussed many important topics and issues concerning the youth of Saudi Arabia, also holding many debate sessions with the officials who are running firms and institutions that are responsible for their wellbeing and future. The forums resulted in many initiatives, most importantly the youth input in the National Strategic Plan.

Alghad Foundation also held many youth discussion cafes, symposiums, and

workshops, regarding issues that concern Saudi youth. Also, it organized Alghad Caravan, which consists of a group of young men and women representing the different regions of Saudi Arabia are touring the regions of the country, hosted every time by one of the regions, getting to know each other and exchange the different costumes and ways of life in the vast and diverse climate and landscapes of Saudi Arabia. Holding a discussion session with the hosting youths regarding the issues that concern the youth in that region, resulting in initiatives to benefit their region, concluding by meeting the governor of the hosting region, holding a productive debate and officially launching their community initiatives.

For Princess Nouf's efforts, she has received King Abdulaziz Establishment for The Gifted award, Ministry of Culture and Education award, Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce award, Al Nahda Philanthropic Society for Women award, The Third Economic Forum for The Business Women award, and The Arabian Women and Future Forum award.



HH Sheikha Dr. Hissah Saad Abdulah Salem AL-Sabah BA

Achievement in Empowering Arab Women Economically

Sheikha Dr. Hissah is the second daughter of the late HH 14th Amir of Kuwait Shiekh Saad Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Upon her graduation from AUB Lebanon she started her retail company in Fashion to be the first lady in business in Kuwait after which she went on to obtain her Masters in hospital administration & worked at the military hospital as head of Medical Services. In 1992 she started her own gallery to promote Arab artists & in 1999 established the Council for Arab Businesswomen to promote Arab women in business. She has succeeded as president for the last 15 years to bring Arab women from 19 countries in a full force of economic power. She has received a doctorate in Humane Letters.

Sheikha Dr. Hissah was selected as "The Best Businesswoman" in Middle East

area in the U.A.E. In March 2002 in M.E. Distinguished Woman Conference , and was honoured by UN Representative in Regional Office for Narcotics Control & Crime Prevention of North Africa and Middle East honoured as First Lady due to her hard works in this field.

In 2002 Sheikha Dr. Hissah was honoured by "Arab Federation of Non -Govt. Societies for Addiction Prevention" for her efforts in this field. In 2012 Global Leadership Awards awarded Sheikha Dr. Hissah for her efforts in Women & Community development Sector - Malaysia. Furthermore, she was awarded from the Gusi Peace organization for her effort to empower women in the Middle East and Philippine.



Ola Al-Fares

Young TV Presenter

Ola is a Renowned Journalist, producer & field Reporter, an inspirational personality for Arab youth worldwide. At age 17, her passion for media was evident as she pursued a career in reporting for Alarabiya news channel for four years.

At 21 she obtained her Law degree at (Ahlea Amman University Jordan), and pursued a career as a news broadcaster at MBC, becoming the youngest news broadcaster in television history.

Ola Tahseen has become an inspiration for Arab youth today with over 2 million

followers on Twitter and Instagram. She has been recognised with various awards for her active role in regional and international press conferences and her humanitarian work centred on highlighting and raising awareness on the day to day struggles of refugees and children globally, taking up several initiatives to help children get an education.

With all her outstanding work, Ola remains modest and prefers to be known by the title of journalist, currently presenting her popular live weekly show entitled "MBC" in one week" amongst others.



Habiba Ghribi

Achievement in Sports

Habiba Ghribi began her career as a cross country runner and competed in the junior race at the 2000 IAAF World Cross Country Championships at the age of fifteen, finishing in 46th place (the second best of the Tunisian team). She competed in the senior short race in 2002, finishing in 76th. Ghribi competed at the 2002 African Championships in Athletics in Radès, Tunisia and ended up in 11th place in the 5000 metres final. Ghribi won the gold in the junior race at the 2002 Pan Arab Cross Country Championships. She also went back to the junior race in 2003 IAAF World Cross Country Championships, improving to 23rd place and heading the Tunisian team to 7th place overall. After modest finishes in the World Cross Country short race in the 2004 and 2005, she switched to focus on the 3000 m steeplechase on the track instead when it became a world championship event.

She took part in her first World Championships in Athletics at the 2005 Helsinki Championships and finished eighth in her heat, not managing to qualify for the women's final but setting a personal best and the Tunisian record of 9:51.49 nevertheless. She gained her first major medal in the event the following year, taking the silver medal at the 2006 African Championships in Athletics behind world medallist Jeruto Kiptum.

Her next major competition was the 2008 Beijing Olympics. This was the first time that the Olympics had held a women's steeplechase competition and she greatly improved her record to 9:25.50 in the Olympic heats, but was a little slower in the final and finished 13th overall.

She attended a number of major events in 2009, starting with her first ever long race at the 2009 IAAF World Cross Country Championships where she finished in 41st place. After this she ran in the 1500 metres at the 2009 Mediterranean Games and achieved a personal best of 4:12.37 on her way to a bronze medal. She made her second world steeplechase appearance at the 2009 World Championships in Athletics and further improved her best by a significant amount in the World final. Her time of 9:12.52 took her up to sixth place. Ghribi closed the year with a performance at the 2009 IAAF World Athletics Final results, but she failed to finish the race. In recognition of her achievements in 2009, Ghribi topped a poll organised by the Arabic language daily Assahafa and was named as the "Best Sportswoman in 2009" in Tunisia. In September 2015 she ran a personal best, Tunisian national record, African record and the 4th fastest time ever of 9:05.36 at the Memorial van Damme in Brussels, Belgium.



Shahla Ahmed Abdul Razak

Achievement in Trade Development

Shahla Abdulrazak was appointed in June 2006 as the Deputy CEO of Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority (DSOA). She has been leading this ambitious Government of Dubai technology park project since its inception. Over the period of 9 years she successfully developed the park from a green field to a technology park with over 2,000 companies and 60,000 residents. Today Silicon Oasis is a Dh 25 billion project created from a start up and growing fast and profitably.

Recently she has also been responsible for developing several initiatives for the Government of Dubai, one of them is the development of ecosystem for technology entrepreneurship and innovation, this resulted in the successful establishment of the largest entrepreneur Centre in the MENA region.

Prior to joining DSOA, Shahla was one of the leadership team members who established Dubai Airport Free Zone (DAFZA) in 1997. Over the period of 10 years the Free Zone achieved substantial growth and is now considered one of the most reputed Free Zones in the world. DAFZA today contributes 4.4% of Dubai's GDP. During her tenure with DAFZA as the Director of Sales & Marketing she

facilitated the establishment of over 1000 companies in the free zone.

She was actively involved in the negotiation of the term sheets and contractual agreement for the set up of Dubai Aerospace Enterprise, a \$1 billion investment in Aerospace, and leading the team to invest and set up a partnership with the University of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Dubai Silicon Oasis.

Shahla won the award from the United Nations for Best Woman Contribution in Regional Business & Trade Development at the 2004 Middle East Women's Achievement Awards and in 2013 she won Emirates Women Award.

Before joining DAFZA in 1997, Shahla held the position of Acting Commercial Attache at the UAE Embassy in London where she promoted business, and trade between the two countries and supported British investment in the UAE.

Shahla holds a BSc in Business Administration from UAE University, and a Masters in Business Administration from Schiller University, United Kingdom.

Shahla Abdul Razak was born in Dubai in 1964.



Merieme Chadid

Achievement in Science

Merieme Chadid is considered the first astronomer in the world to commit to installing a large astronomical observatory in Antarctica. She is the first and only person to place an Arab flag "Moroccan" at the South Pole. She is also one of the first pioneering astronomers to install the Very Large Telescopes in the Atacama Desert in Chile, the driest desert in the world, creating a network of observation instruments in the southern hemisphere.

Merieme was born in an humble Moroccan family, she grew up and studied in Casablanca in Morocco. She obtained her PhD in Astronomy and Space from Paul Sabatier University in France and completed several executive education programs at Harvard University. She is married with two children and is working at Côte d'Azur Observatory and University of Nice.

Merieme was awarded the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honour, Wissam El Alaoui, by His Majesty the King of Morocco. She was honoured by the World

Economic Forum as Young Global Leader and was appointed Science Hero by the My Hero project. She is Young Leader of the China-France Foundation and was listed as one of the 30 most fascinating workers in the world by Forbes Magazine. Merieme was elected Dame of the Day over the Globe in January 12, 2015, and was portrayed in the book "Free, rebellious and audacious", released on International Women's Day in 2015. The Arabic TV Channel Al Jazeera devoted a two hour documentary movie about her biography in "Pioneering Women".

Her research fields are focused on the stellar physics and the evolution of the Universe. Her scientific discoveries are published in numerous international scientific reviews and books. She gives lectures and supervises PhD students.

Merieme is involved in the popularisation of Science among all kinds of public and countries. She aspires to be a "popular" astronomer and wishes to reinforce women's role in Science and to bequeath a passion and knowledge for future generations.



ARAB BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Arab-British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) is a membership organisation, founded in 1975, to promote economic activity and facilitate trade between the UK and the 22 member countries of the League of Arab States. The Chamber's mission is to help companies take advantage of the unlocked business potential, whether they are new to the markets or more experienced players wishing to extend their operations to the Arab World.

Over the years the ABCC has developed a broad range of services, expertise and knowledge which prove invaluable to both British and Arab businesses. Joining the Chamber offers companies a strategic advantage by putting them in contact with a wide and influential professional business network, founded on our strong and productive ties with Arab and British chambers of commerce, and the broader Arab-British business communities.

Our Mission

Our mission is to become the preferred business partner for both British and Arab businesses that are looking to make the most of the new opportunities that are constantly emerging from the multi-million dollar trading relationship that exists between the UK and the Arab world.

Our Vision

There still remains significant unlocked trading potential between the UK and the Arab world, our goal is to help businesses benefit from that potential. That means providing services to facilitate trade links, and to promote potential Arab-British cooperation, by breaking down cultural barriers and refocusing business on the investment opportunities that exist in the Arab world. To achieve our vision we will continue to provide a wide range of services for which we have become renowned, and concentrate on transforming ourselves into a modern Arab-British chamber, fully in step with the needs of our members and their requirements for access to business-friendly services.

ABCC

Arab-British
Chamber of Commerce

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LONDON™ & PARTNERS

London & Partners is the official promotional company for London. We promote London and attract businesses, events, congresses, students and visitors to the capital. Our aims are to build London's international reputation and to attract investment and visitor spend, which create jobs and growth.

London & Partners is a not-for-profit public private partnership, funded by the Mayor of London and our network of commercial partners.

We work in partnership with organisations in London and across the world to deliver our purpose and mission.

London & Partners was created in order to bring together the remits of the capital's promotional agencies: Think London, Study London and Visit London. The aim is to create one single promotional company for London that can speak with one voice and mission to all audiences in the UK and internationally.

Our remit is to drive leisure and business visitors as well as bidding to secure major events in London. We can unlock the city for new businesses that want to set up or expand in London and we promote the capital's world class universities to international students.

Our Purpose

To attract investment and visitor spend which creates jobs and growth today, and to build London's international reputation for tomorrow.

Our Mission

To tell London's story brilliantly.

London & Partners

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Taylor Wimpey Central London

Taylor Wimpey Central London is the boutique division of one of the largest residential developers in the UK, the FTSE 100-listed Taylor Wimpey Plc. Our bespoke approach to development in central London enables us to create distinctive luxury properties in prime zones 1 and 2 locations that truly stand out from the crowd. While every development in the Taylor Wimpey Central London portfolio is unique, all share the same ideals of expert design, high quality craftsmanship, practicality and investment security. And all come with our guarantee of excellent customer service. Inspired by the heritage and personality of each highly-prized location, our philosophy is to create individual developments of enduring value that take advantage of the best that London has to offer.

Following on from the success of previous sell-out projects in Camden, Westminster and West Hampstead, Taylor Wimpey Central London continues to acquire sites in enviable locations, with current developments in Battersea, Kensington, Dalston, Paddington, Southwark, Kings Cross and The City.

Our valued clients are located in the UK and across the globe, attracted to London for its stable and consistent environment for property value growth and healthy rental returns. We fully understand these factors and tailor our service to the needs of our clients, working with international selling agents to connect purchasers to the right home or investment.

Taylor Wimpey Central London is proud to be lead sponsor of the Arab Women of the Year Awards and we look forward to further enhancing our existing relationships with the Gulf region.

For further information, please visit taylorwimpeycentrallondon.com



Regent's University London – exclusive, independent, international

Regent's University London is London's only independent, not-for-profit university, with a highly cosmopolitan community based in royal Regent's Park and Marylebone. The park is home to the London Central Mosque, and investors such as the Qatari royal family have chosen to purchase property within this historic park. Indeed, the neighbourhood is beginning to rival traditional areas such as Knightsbridge and Mayfair as a desirable location for Arab investors.

With mellow red-brick buildings set in 11 acres of private garden, Regent's main campus in the park is a quiet, secluded haven in which to live and study. A short walk away, the Marylebone campus is in a lively, historic area which is now known for its upmarket designer boutiques, cafés and shops.

The campuses are within easy reach of all that this exciting European city has to offer, close to the centre of London, with easy access to the city's famous theatres, galleries and museums, as well as major sporting and entertainment venues.

The University is a haven for original thought – a place for students who want to learn in a supportive environment and who will enter the world of work as entrepreneurs and leaders who think and operate globally. It offers both UK and American-style degree programmes in a wide range of fields, including business and management, finance, humanities, creative arts, social sciences and design.

Regent's is small and intimate enough to feel like a home away from home to its students – with just over 4,000 students on campus, staff and students get to know each other by name, and students benefit from plenty of one-to-one contact with their tutors.

Regent's is a meeting place for people from all over the world, and is proud to have students from more than 140 countries and staff from 52 different nations. Intercultural exchange and international languages are a crucial part of the education at Regent's – the students are citizens of the world. Many students spend a portion of their studies abroad, gaining experience of other cultures, languages and work practices. They are encouraged to take classes in any of nine economically important languages, and receive extensive support and teaching if English is not their first language.

Regent's graduates go on to build successful international careers in a range of industries, becoming entrepreneurs, starting their own companies, or returning to ensure the continuing success of family businesses. A higher than average number of graduates move into graduate-level jobs, with starting salaries that compare very favourably with other UK universities.

VERTU

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND

Vertu aims to deliver the world's best luxury mobile phone experience for its customers by combining expert craftsmanship and peerless materials with innovative technology and unique services. Today, Vertu leads the market that it pioneered over a decade ago.

The Vertu range of mobile phones is made up of three distinct models - Signature, Signature Touch and Aster. The Vertu Audio Collection comprises V Headphones (HP-1V) and V Speaker (SP-1V). Vertu mobile phones are handmade in England using the world's finest materials, with each one assembled by a single craftsman.

Vertu is renowned for its curated services; a suite of carefully selected exclusive offers, content and assistance especially selected to enhance the Vertu customer's lifestyle. At the heart of these services is Vertu CONCIERGE, offering luxury lifestyle assistance and enrichment. Vertu CONCIERGE is on-hand 24/7 to facilitate your every request. Vertu LIFE offers personalised recommendations and privileged access to experiences and events. Vertu CERTAINTY delivers security for customers, their data and their phones.

Vertu is available from around 500 stores, including 70 Vertu Boutiques, in 66 countries



With a heritage dating back to 1926, GODIVA Chocolatier delights with the ultimate chocolate experience. Known for creating transformational moments that become lasting memories, Godiva has built a presence in over 80 countries with distribution in more than 450 owned boutiques, Global Travel Retail, department and specialty stores, as well as online.

If you really want to show your employees or business partners how much you've appreciated their hard work and business this past year, chocolate business gifts from GODIVA will make you the *crème de la crème*. Our gourmet chocolate business gifts will surprise the recipients with your appreciation and gratitude, and you'll know they'll enjoy sampling all the delicious chocolate goodies tucked inside the basket. GODIVA chocolates make the perfect gift for all your business gifting needs.

With our time-tested recipes of pure ingredients, elegant styling, the most innovative selection and packaging that makes a lasting impression, Godiva turns a smile into a WOW.



JLL is a professional services and investment management firm offering real estate services to a wide range of clients. With more than 200 corporate offices operating in 75 countries worldwide, wherever you are in the market, JLL can help you find an advantage.

Our UK residential team comprises over 300 professionals operating from a network of regional offices. Specialising in all areas of local, national and international property, we are the most comprehensive full service residential advisor in the market. For those who want to identify new opportunities in residential property we can offer a complete 'end-to-end' service from estate agency services to find you the right property or buyer, through to consultancy advice to overcome planning issues and enable development.

JLL are the UK's leading new homes property advisors with over 25 years' experience. As trusted professionals, we provide you access to the largest range of new homes from the country's foremost house builders and developers.

Whether buying to live or invest, JLL have properties to suit all budgets across London and the UK. We make the process of buying off-plan easy to understand, ensuring you have first choice in new development launches. By carefully selecting only the best developments from leading house builders and developers, we make sure you can buy in confidence.

Miller Harris

PERFUMER LONDON

Miller Harris breathes colour and life into the classic perfumer's art, with complex couture fragrances designed to tell vivid urban stories. We start with nature – with distinct greens and woods, with carefully sourced floral notes, iris from Florence, French violet leaf, jasmine from Egypt, Tunisian orange flower – but we frame these precious botanicals in complex and unconventional ways. We honour nature by sourcing the finest raw materials and preserving the delicacy of our ingredients, then curate, combine and harmonise them to create perfumes that combine Parisian elegance with London's eclectic street styles.

English founder Lyn Harris spent five years training in Paris, then in Grasse at Robertet, the world's leader in natural aromatic ingredients. Following this, Lyn created bespoke fragrances for clients before founding Miller Harris Perfumer London in 2000. 15 years later, Miller Harris' signature style is defined by Lyn's love of naturals and her precision in using them. Whilst respecting tradition, Miller Harris strives to push the boundaries, creating exquisitely crafted fragrances that are innovative yet timeless. Choosing different scents to suit different seasons, occasions and moods, such that you can build up a wardrobe of fragrances rather than being restricted to purely one. It is rare to find a fragrance house that will change the way you feel about scent but Miller Harris does exactly that. 15 years after its creation, Miller Harris continues its collaboration with Robertet, using the finest quality raw materials, to create a unique and personal journey for each and every wearer.

Our irreverent and eclectic style brings together the finest quality raw materials with the artistry and instinct of a true master perfumer. Whether you are looking for an exquisitely crafted fragrance, opulent candle or treasured travel essentials, each Miller Harris gift bears our trademark of refined quality and artistic precision.

Committed to finding the perfect scent, expertly curated gift box or tailored event, our bespoke service allows us to find the appropriate gift to suit every budget and all occasions. With an eye for detail, each gift we deliver provides the excellent Miller Harris experience with all products luxuriously wrapped in our signature style to leave that lasting impression.

Miller Harris offers exclusive and unique bespoke events. Evolve and enhance your fragrance wardrobe with bespoke consultations privately hosted in our Mayfair Flagship boutique. You will enjoy Champagne and macaroons whilst our fragrance experts take you through a unique journey to profile your perfect scent. To complete the experience, you will leave with a Miller Harris gift to treasure.

Miller Harris

PERFUMER LONDON

la fumée
alexandrie

A tribute to the
mythical shoreline of
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millerharris.com
#millerharris



We open the door to the London residential property market

With over 40,000 people worldwide and offices throughout the Middle East, we help a world of global buyers looking to invest in residential property in London.

To hear more about how the JLL MENA team can help you with your property needs, please contact:

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London Residential



Westminster Quarter, SW1
Luxury 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments from £959,000
Westminsterquarter.com

London residential attracts buyers from around the globe and the Middle East has a deep history as part of this demand profile since the 1970s. This has traditionally been centred on the prime postcodes of Knightsbridge, Chelsea and Belgravia, but more recently it has begun to evolve. A new wave of capital flows from the region has developed a stronger interest in residential as an investment opportunity. Alongside this shift, Middle Eastern buyers are increasingly developing interests in new locations, including Battersea and Canary Wharf.

Recognising the importance attached to UK residential investment from the region, JLL has built up the largest residential investment and advisory business in the UAE to support client requirements for UK property. JLL is one of the world's largest global property consultants, working throughout the GCC. We have a large network of multidiscipline offices and work in partnership with many of the biggest property developers, the largest of which, Taylor Wimpey Central London, is headline sponsor for the 2015 Arab Women of the Year Awards.



Paddington Exchange, W2
Stunning 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments from £990,000
Paddingtonexchange.com



Mrs Asma Rasheed is a Manager in the JLL Middle East and North Africa team based in Dubai. We recently interviewed Asma to better understand her experiences as an Arab woman who is at the forefront of helping to expand this marketplace.

How easy have you found working for a global business in the UAE office? Have you noticed any cultural differences?

AR: I worked for a local Emirati bank before moving to JLL and I definitely noticed a shift in culture. The working hours can sometimes be a little bit longer but the firm has a great mix of cultures and nationalities even within the UAE office, which I find incredibly rewarding.

How have you dealt with the difference in business cultures in the UK and the UAE?

AR: The opportunity to work with western developers together with Middle Eastern clients is about bridging the gap in cultures and the ways of doing business. I feel fortunate to be personally working with developers like Taylor Wimpey Central London, which has a true understanding of the region and the way business is conducted. This has enabled us to secure many deals through its knowledge and experience of working in the region.

Have you identified many opportunities as an Arab woman in this working environment?

AR: I find that gender isn't particularly relevant within this industry but being an Emirati definitely helps open doors in the GCC. As with any role, it is important to know how and where we can add value to complement the skills sets of the rest of the team. In this sense, helping to 'translate' Emirati business culture and social norms is something that helps me and the business by ultimately developing a better understanding of what our clients need and how they would prefer to work with us.

What advice would you give to other Arab women considering a similar working environment in the region?

AR: I would encourage other ladies to consider the property industry as I get a lot of fulfilment and pleasure working in the UAE, transacting on London properties. I think there is an exciting future and I'm looking forward to being part of it.

Arab Women of the Year Awards

A Celebration of Arab Women's Achievements



Be part of the Arab Women Of the Year Awards 2016,
an exciting opportunity to celebrate successful
Arab women from around the World.



Make a Difference

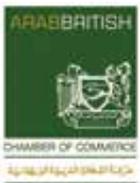
If your organisation is passionate about supporting the professional development for Arab Women, becoming a Sponsor of the Arab Women of the Year 2016 is a great way to make an impact.

Arab Women of the Year Awards
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