



CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S ORGANISATION LONDON NEWSLETTER WINTER 2016



UPCOMING EVENTS

CWO Christmas Drinks - Tues 6th Dec, 7pm, Embassy of Israel, W8

UPCOMING TRAINING

Conservative Women's Development Workshop [Link](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA – LONDON CWO



INTRODUCING THE DEFENCE SECRETARY OF STATE AT CONFERENCE

BY AZI AHMED



The Conservative Conference 2016 was a major milestone for me, all thanks to our Defence Secretary; Rt Hon Michael Fallon . As we know, politics offers a tapestry of opportunities, but finding your niche can take time, regardless of your experiences in the outside world.

When Rt Hon Michael Fallon's office called to ask if I would introduce the Rt Hon Michael Fallon at Conference, I was both honoured and privileged with the opportunity, especially as Rt Hon Michael Fallon's speech hit the two major issues affecting our society today; women and diversity.

When I trained in the army, women and ethnicity were next to zero. I took part in an experiment where women were put through SAS selection training for the first time. There was no benchmark, nobody knew how far we would get but they did realise there is a role for women in this unit. Having come through the training and entered into politics through the continuous support of the CWO, it made me realise

how forward thinking our army establishment actually is. All that is needed is the right person to execute the equality in the army.

The Rt Hon Michael Fallon , is truly the best placed person for this role as he is now making these changes, which is a dream come true for me. Earlier this year, I wrote an article for the Independent about women serving on the frontline, and since then have been invited to various discussions, including a radio debate with Colonel Richard Kemp who disagrees with women serving on the frontline.

I believe, frontline army training should be assessed on a persons ability, not on their gender, and as long as we do not lower the standards of training to get women through, it will change the dynamics within the army establishment for the better.

My priority now is to help develop more diversity in the armed forces, to help build a stronger British army which we can continue to be proud of and the best in the world.

LONDON CWO SUMMER PARTY

BY LAUREN HANKINSON



Hosted in the Ebury Street garden, we were fortunate enough to be joined by the Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, former Deputy Leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament, and proud MP for Chipping Barnet since 2005.

Theresa has been involved with the CWO since the beginning of her political career and she truly is a London MP with current campaigns on securing the best schools for Barnet, upgrades on the Northern Line and faster broadband for Barnet. **cont...**

LONDON CWO CHRISTMAS DRINKS



Please join the Consul General, Mrs Rachel Shani with the CWO for a Christmas Drinks Reception at the Embassy of Israel.

Venue: Embassy of Israel, 2 Palace Green, London W8 4QB

Date & Time: Tuesday 6th December, 7pm

Tickets are limited click [here](#) to book.

London CWO Officers

Executive Committee:

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Hon President | Baroness Hooper |
| Chairman | Sophie Stratton |
| Deputy Chairman | Azi Ahmed |
| Secretary | Linda Verner |
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Area Officers:

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| North East | Molly Samuel-Leport |
| North West | Gonul Daniels |
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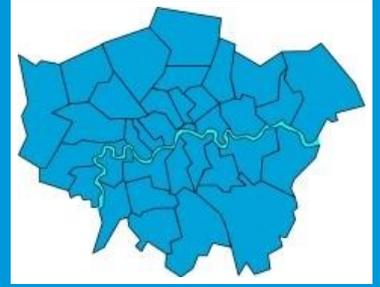
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LONDON CWO SUMMER PARTY (CONT...)

The audience did not hold back and she faced some tough questions on Government policy including Hinkley Point and Junior Doctors Contracts. Handling those questions with aplomb the conversation then moved on to the practicalities of campaigning in London.

The whole evening of course, played out in the arena of Brexit. Being a staunch Eurosceptic MEP (throughout her time in the European Parliament Theresa was a determined opponent of Britain's entry into the Euro and other attempts to expand the powers of the EU) and a high profile campaigner for the Vote Leave campaign, Theresa was able to give her frank opinions on a post-Brexit United Kingdom – both on the upcoming negotiations but also on how to stay united as a country in the aftermath of the referendum.

It was a hugely successful evening where we welcomed newcomers and long-term CWO London supporters alike.

With thanks in particular to the Cities of London & Westminster Conservative Association for hosting the event.

SETTING UP A NEW ACADEMY SCHOOL, MY JOURNEY TO THE BOARD ROOM

BY GONUL DANIELS



Ashmole Primary School Opening September 2016

I became a school governor in 2004 because I thought the schools admission process was unfair and the only way to influence school policy was to get involved and join the governing body. So I became a governor and part of the decision making process that affects our children, and the next generation's education.

My reason for becoming a parent governor was initially personal but I found that I wanted to be involved in policy making for all children and not just my own.

I was a parent governor for many years and thought I had plateaued but then I approached the Conservative Women's Organisation. They gave me the support and encouragement to enable me to take the next steps.

Three years on and I am Vice Chair of Ashmole Academy Trust, which has two schools and is looking to extend outstanding education further. I am Chair of Governors at Ashmole Academy, an outstanding secondary school, where I started my school governor

career. I am Chair of Governors at Ashmole Primary School, a brand new primary school that I campaigned to create.

As Vice Chair of Ashmole Academy Trust I recently spoke at a Women on Boards Boardroom Conversation about my journey to the boardroom. The event was to encourage more women to take the plunge onto Academy Boards and public life.

I truly appreciate the support that the Conservative Women's Organisation has given me. I remember meeting the wonderful Pauline Lucas MBE on my first CWO course who inspired and influenced me in my career in public service.

During my journey to the board room and through the CWO I have met many inspiring women and I cannot praise the organisation enough. In particular those women who have no interest in pursuing a career for themselves but assist those of us who want to go into politics and public life.

I hope I can repay some of the support shown to me by encouraging women into public service and the school governor role as I have found it very rewarding. No more so than this year when sixty children started their school career at a brand new primary school.

School governance affects real lives and should be governed by those who are passionate about education and who want the best start in life for all children. Get involved by contacting the [Conservative Women's Organisation](http://www.conservativewomen.org.uk).

CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM

Join the Conservative Women's Organisation with the Conservative Policy Forum for discussion and debate on a national policy.

The first CWO / CPF forum event is soon to be announced. Get involved and help influence Conservative Party policy by attending. Future CWO Events can be found [here](#).



Conservative Women's Organisation

London CWO Newsletter Editor: Gonul Daniels

Do you have an article for the CWO newsletter? Contact Gonul Daniels on london.northwest@conservativewomen.org.uk.