

Vanessa Valley OBE

Vanessa is renowned as one of the UK's most networked women, leveraging her extensive connections to empower women worldwide. With a career spanning 25 successful years in Banking and Finance, Vanessa's passion for advancing women led her to establish the acclaimed [WeAreTheCity](#) in 2008. This platform, along with its sister organization [WeAreTechWomen](#), boasts over 80,000 female members globally, offering invaluable resources, conferences, awards, and job opportunities. To date Vanessa's organisations have helped to up-skill over 50,000 women globally.

Recognised as a leading advocate for gender equality, Vanessa advises government and corporate entities on strategies to attract, develop, and retain female talent. Her impactful contributions were honoured with an OBE from King in June 2018, acknowledging her dedication to women and the economy. Vanessa continues to inspire and lead by example, leaving an indelible mark on society through her tireless advocacy and philanthropy.

In addition to her pioneering work with WeAreTheCity, Vanessa founded Gender Networks in 2010, uniting diversity leaders from various sectors to exchange best practices quarterly. She is also the visionary behind prestigious awards like Rising Stars, TechWomen100, Trailblazer50, and Pioneer20, elevating the profiles of over 1,800 remarkable women and male allies.

As an author, Vanessa penned "Heels of Steel: Surviving and Thriving in the Corporate World," chronicling her journey from an East London council estate to the C-suite. Her forthcoming book, slated for release in 2025, promises further insights into her remarkable career trajectory.

Vanessa's impact extends beyond her professional endeavours, with 26 industry accolades underscoring her commitment to championing women's causes. Notable honours include Women in Banking & Finance's Champion for Women and induction into Computer Weekly's Hall of Fame for her contributions to Women in Tech.

A familiar face in media, Vanessa frequently appears on TV and radio platforms, sharing her expertise and experiences. Proudly neurodiverse, Vanessa's discovery of ADHD in her forties propelled her mission to support women navigating similar journeys.

Beyond her professional commitments, Vanessa upholds a cherished family tradition as the Pearly Queen of The City of London. Committed to philanthropy, she has served on several boards, including Prostate UK and Cancer Research UK, as a Women of Influence. Currently, Vanessa holds the role of trustee at MS Together, a charity supporting young adults diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.