



## Young achiever

### Shireen Irani

29, is London lawyer and founder of the non-profit website i-ProBono, connecting civil society organisations to lawyers and students.

"My parents are from Bombay. I grew up in Dorset and from 14 to 18 attended an American international school in India. I started i-ProBono because lawyers get such a bad rap, and are vilified as ambulance chasers and money wasters.

"The people I know went into law believing in social justice, wanting to make a change and wanting to do something positive in society: i-pro-bono allows people to participate and contribute skills. So the real estate lawyer who is doing corporate work can now

help an orphanage in India. We help an African prison project which recruits young lawyers and students to go out to a prisons in Uganda, to make sure prisoners' rights are being upheld."

#### ALSO SHORTLISTED

Swati Bhargava, CEO and co-founder, Pouring Pounds, an innovative cash-back website.  
Akanksha Hazari, MBA student, University of Cambridge.

Priya Lakhani, MD, Masala Masala, who left her legal career to become an entrepreneur.  
Meheen Rangoonwala-Damal, director, trustee and founder, of charity Multi-Agency International Training and Support.  
Divya Talwar, broadcast journalist, BBC Asian Network.

31, is a police sergeant who has won accolades for life-saving bravery and community leadership on a tough housing estate in Birmingham, which saw crime fall by 43 per cent. She is now the Association of Chief Police Officers' lead on women's engagement in preventing extremism.

"We used had all sorts of novelties in a community project on the Matchbox Estate. I wasn't popular when I started. I was punched and spat on. But by the end of it, a lot of those same kids were cleaning off the graffiti, picking up litter, mowing lawns and serving tea at elderly residents' homes. I am Muslim and I went to college in Pakistan. While I

family are first generation immigrants. I consider myself a Muslim and jihadist, very much so - jihad is about personal struggle. It isn't something to be frightened of. My jihad is to serve Britain to the ceiling of my ability, for the rest of my life."

#### ALSO SHORTLISTED

Rushanara Ali, MP Bethnal Green and Bow.

Rekha Bhakoo CBE, head-teacher, Newton Farm School is a leader supporting under-achieving schools.

Sherry Malik, chairwoman of Essex Cares.

Amerdeep Somal, commissioner, Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Baroness Warsi, cabinet minister and co-chairman of the Conservative Party.



the pioneer in making Indian film international and was the first company to bring Indian films into UK multiplexes. We were the first to approach the big cinemas to showcase Bollywood films and we've been instrumental in taking Indian films to the non-Indian diaspora audiences."

#### ALSO SHORTLISTED

Sophia Ahmad, head of finance at BSKyB.

Noor Ali, ethnic buyer, Asda, and member of Ethnic Minority Advisory Group.

Sabrina Dar, Cisco head of marketing, London 2012.

Sangeeta Desai, chief operating officer at Hit Entertainment, became a board member in September 2010.

## Business



### Shezmin Madhani

25, founder, trustee and fundraiser of the Nia Children's Foundation, a charity set up in 2007.

"I went to Kenya when I was 21 after university and visited the Kibera slums. I saw how children were living and just decided that one day I would like to do something to help. I registered the charity when I was 23. We started off with just food, but they needed other things too, like books and stationery. Now we are helping teachers to get qualified. At the end of this year we are taking

## Social & humanitarian



on a second school to help another 100 children.

#### ALSO SHORTLISTED

Dame Indira Patel has spoken on discrimination against widows and forced marriages.

Andleen Razaq, senior adviser, Department for Communities and Local Government.  
Christine Yau, managing director, Y Ming, known as "Steel Rose".  
Zeenat Islam, founder of social justice group YOU<sup>th</sup> Inspire.