

UPF UK: Young Achievers Awards 2025 held at the House of Commons

Robin Marsh
July 1, 2025



Youth Achievement Awards Ceremony Convened at the UK Parliament - 1st July 2025

Graciously Hosted by Mr Luke Taylor MP

Organised by Universal Peace Federation (UPF) - UK



On the 1st of July 2025, the Universal Peace Federation - UK successfully hosted the Youth Achievement Awards Ceremony at the UK Parliament, bringing together 100 distinguished guests, including Members of Parliament, proud awardee family and friends, civil society leaders, and most importantly, 23 exceptional young achievers.

This inspiring event recognised young professionals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, compassion, and commitment to addressing some of society's most pressing challenges - from environmental advocacy and youth empowerment to public safety and humanitarian outreach. The event is the fifteenth time UPF UK has provided a platform for young visionaries to share their journeys, discuss impactful projects, and inspire collective action across sectors. Each awardee was honoured for going beyond personal ambition, dedicating their time and talents to create a better, more inclusive, and peaceful world. (Second photo down Luke Taylor MP presenting awards to Molly and Tilly Fenton.)



Highlights and Impact

A Global Vision with Local Action

Each young achiever recognised at the ceremony exemplified a spirit of global citizenship. Whether tackling environmental sustainability, addressing mental health stigma, mentoring at-risk youth, or collaborating with law enforcement to build safer communities, these young professionals showcased a maturity and sense of responsibility well beyond their years.

Their work is proof that age is no barrier to leadership, their courage and commitment are actively shaping the future.

Voices that Move Mountains

One of the most powerful aspects of the evening was hearing directly from the awardees. Their stories resonated deeply with the audience, offering a tapestry of lived experiences and personal breakthroughs that served as a source of motivation for all in attendance. Their words challenged us to think bigger, care deeper, and act with greater urgency and unity.

Parliamentarian Support and Institutional Encouragement



The presence and active engagement of Members of Parliament gave the event a significant stamp of institutional endorsement. The host, Luke Taylor MP, shared how moved he had been when reading the testimonies of the awardees before the event. He heartily presented a number of the awards during the programme. Similarly, Andy Slaughter MP, Jim Dickson MP and Johnathan Hinder MP dedicated time from their busy schedules to congratulate and to express sincere admiration for the work of the awardees. In some cases they already knew of the awardees work and expressed their support for their activities going forward. (Photo of Jim Dickson MP presenting an award to Gabriel Kadiri)

The presentation of the Young Achievers awards appeared in news outlets featuring [Amb. Canon Otto](#) and [Rhoslyn Singh](#).

This cross-sector collaboration between youth, civil society, and policymakers is a strong step forward in fostering sustainable peace and inclusive development.

Key Themes Recognised



- Environmental and climate advocacy
- Youth empowerment and education
- Community safety and police partnership
- Mental health awareness and support
- Social justice and inclusivity
- Humanitarian outreach and poverty alleviation

Conclusion

The Youth Achievement Awards 2025 was more than just a celebration, it was a call to action. It reminded us that the future is not a distant dream, but a shared responsibility we all carry, today. (Photo above of Andy Slaughter MP presenting an award to constituent Sophia Mok)

The Universal Peace Federation is proud to stand behind this generation of changemakers, offering support, recognition, and encouragement as they continue to lead by example. We believe their passion, courage, and determination are the very ingredients needed to build a more peaceful and equitable world. In his concluding remarks, Mr Bogdan Pammer, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, UK President, congratulated the Young Achiever awardees. He advised them that lasting peace or change can only be accomplished when it is motivated by divine within us, irrespective of belief, so we should all nurture that aspect of our lives to be able to endure. (Bogdan Pammer photo below)



Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the 23 young achievers for their extraordinary contributions, the Members of Parliament for their support, and all participants who helped make the event a resounding success. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to peace, purpose, and the power of youth.

Please see an account of each Young Achiever awardee below.

Young Achiever Awardees Testimonies:

Alara Bir

From a young age, I learned the importance of understanding and respecting differences. Growing up in two cultures showed me the richness and challenges of diversity, nurturing empathy for people from all walks of life, especially those who feel marginalised. This shapes my academic pursuits and community work.

My heritage has driven my aspirations and causes I support. In February 2023, after the earthquake in Turkey, I led a fundraising initiative, raising £1,500 for relief efforts with my community. It taught me resilience, compassion, and the power of unity in crisis.

At school, I lead by example as Head Prefect, mentoring younger students and encouraging them to embrace their voices. Supporting others as my community has supported me is central to who I am.

Passionate about environmental sustainability, I've joined hedge-planting initiatives to give back while protecting the planet, showing how small actions create ripples of positive change and responsibility for our environment. Academically, I've pursued challenging topics, with my EPQ on euthanasia deepening my desire to study law. Debates at King's College London inspired me to focus on immigration law to advocate for those voiceless due to persecution or displacement. I believe the legal system can be a lifeline, and I am committed to ensuring stories are heard and rights protected.

Writing for The Student Lawyer magazine has deepened my interest in law and society, sharpening my ability to engage critically with complex issues through articles on artificial intelligence and ethics. Beyond academics, I completed the Battersea Park Half Marathon, raising £500 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. Running was not just a personal challenge but a tribute to the resilience of those who inspire me. I will carry these values forward, using my voice and actions to help build a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Alessandro Quao

My name is Alessandro Eko Quao, a 19-year-old born in Camden Town and raised in Northwest London. As a young musician and creative, I am dedicated to fostering vibrant communities through music, culture, and creativity, while advocating for positive change and meaningful connections.

Currently pursuing a BA in Creative Musicianship at the Institute of Contemporary Music and Performance, I am driven to make a lasting impact. As a Student Ambassador, I actively engage with students and local communities, creating a sense of belonging.

Through organising events, I promote creativity and engagement. As Cultural Awareness Lead at Elevated Minds CIC, I helped enhance cultural understanding among new Met police recruits, serving as a bridge between communities and stakeholders. Using my personal network, I created opportunities for the organisation and its members, advocating for its mission with commitment.

My experience as a Runner and Film Studio Assistant at Garden Studios has allowed me to showcase my versatility while supporting a vibrant creative community. From starring in the studio's first music video to facilitating collaborative projects and providing logistical assistance, I am dedicated to contributing to the success of every endeavour.

With strong musical skills, interpersonal abilities, and a passion for problem-solving and innovation, I am committed to using my diverse experiences to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others and the world around me.

Fluent in English and Italian, with knowledge of Spanish, I collaborate effectively with diverse teams and individuals. Recognised for my contributions to community engagement, cultural awareness programs, and creative projects, I am driven by a deep belief in the power of connection and collaboration.

Anezka Khan

Anezka Khan is an avid young student deeply sensitive to environmental issues, aspiring to become a leader in sustainability. Recently chosen as a delegate for the UCL Sustainability Leadership Conference 2024, she contributed to talks led by industry professionals across the sustainability sector. Her interest in tackling the climate crisis has brewed since childhood, publishing articles in youth sections of climate organisations and attending protests with family and friends. She believes ignoring sustainability has disastrous consequences, threatening ecosystems, health, and livelihoods, making the younger generation's fight for sustainability critical.

Anezka's participation in the UCL conference has further ignited her passion, providing valuable insights and connections. She is determined to drive change, advocate for sustainable practices, and inspire others. Closer to home, she has debated the importance of protecting London's green belt, seeing it as preserving local heritage. She is completing a degree at UCL, infusing her passion into all aspects of life. As President of the UCL Drama Society, she has collaborated with local theatres to create workshops raising awareness of extreme heat through performance, believing climate knowledge should be accessible through arts and culture.

Within her English BA, she has focused essay research on ecological crises, post-apocalyptic flood fiction, and perceptions of natural disasters, marking the shift from divine interpretations to scientific causation. She hopes to continue her studies to contribute to containing these threats. Anezka believes everyone deserves cleaner surroundings and fresher air and advocates for sustainable practices, recognising our actions today directly impact future generations. By prioritising sustainability and conscious choices, she hopes to create a healthier, more sustainable world.

Amb. Canon Otto FRSA

Canon Otto is a young entrepreneur, policy researcher and creative , founder of award winning community- facing international dance company Dance Shakti, and United Nations Commision on the Status of women UK civic society youth advocate.

Canon Otto is a Global Sustainability Leader committed to restoring our fast-degrading environment from breakage, advocating for the propagation of Sustainability across the world, and driving a lasting change through sustainability policy reforms across and amongst Governments, Corporations and Communities.

Over his 10 years-plus experience as a social entrepreneur, community organizer and sustainability leader, he has worked with multilateral organizations across various sectors, and has helped to design, implement, and scale several social programs. This has earned him several awards from Notable Institutions and Leaders of Nations.

He Founded is the Founder/Executive Director of CleanCyclers; A social enterprise committed to building a planet where people and nature can thrive through recycling, Afforestation and global sustainability conferences. He is also the founder and Convener of The Global Sustainability Summit and Awards; A fusion of distinguished sustainability dialogue and recognition of outstanding achievements in sustainability. An event where innovation, dedication, and collective action converge to sculpt a more environmentally conscious and sustainable future where people and planet can thrive.

Canon Otto is a member of Nigerian Environmental Society (NES), Waste management association of Nigeria (WAMASON), recycling association of Nigeria (RAN), Chattered Management Institute England, United Kingdom, Fellow of Royal Society of Art (FRSA) and Global Solar Council (GSC)

His vision is to raise an army of sustainability champions to build a planet where people and mature can thrive.

Dameer Ahmed

Dameer is a Bioengineering student at Imperial College London, determined to see how far we can engineer our biology to optimise our lives. This interest, however, developed from experiences he faced in his younger years. During his Alevels, where he took Further Maths, Maths, Physics, Computer Science and an EPQ, he was diagnosed with medical issues that severely hindered his self-control. It was here that he became obsessed with "finding a cure" - immersing himself in behavioural theories and neuroscience - to better understand his own mind. Consequently, he wrote his extended project qualification (EPQ) about curing such ailments in the brain: behaviours like procrastination. Alarmingly, he discovered an ever-increasing struggle among humans to battle their own minds. In his research, he details that in our digital age, the overwhelming distractions we face cause our brains to devolve. Alongside this, a slow frustration brewed as he journeyed through secondary school, seeing his peers quit and drop subjects because they saw themselves as 'inadequate'. Even though he felt they were far brighter than himself - it was almost as if they had placed themselves "in a box". This sentiment still bothers him to this day: strong belief that everyone is capable, but the high barrier of entry of self-belief stops people from achieving their goals. This 'friction' needs to be overcome for intentional change, and it's only

getting more challenging in our distractable generation. Dameer has always loved tinkering. This foray extended into his school life, where he founded the Robotics Society. He knew many students loved this area, but they felt overwhelmed by the learning curve. Once again, he felt it was a 'perceived' high barrier to entry, so creating this society was a way he could demystify the complexities and allow people to nurture their passion. As a result of the society's success, it was approved to receive the school's extracurricular STEM budget to fund the projects. Akin to this initiative, he believes in being proactive about problems. He noticed the need for more teaching of financial knowledge in school curricula, so he founded the Investment Education Society, where he invited the CEO of Path Financial, a financial advisory firm, to give a talk and educate students. Now at Imperial, he has combined his passions for neuroscience and engineering to found the Education Society, where he invited the CEO of Path Financial, a financial advisory firm, to give a talk and educate students. Now at Imperial, he has combined his passions for neuroscience and engineering to found the UK's first university-led Neurotechnology society. He has been the project lead for the society's first funded product, which received further grants from startup competitions.

Enoch Samushonga

Introduction: Mr Enoch Samushonga, is a 20 year old entrepreneur and second year University student at the University of Westminster studying business and entrepreneurship

I'm honoured and grateful to stand before you today. It is with great humility that I accept this prestigious award. I am truly privileged to be recognized in this way.

I am a vibrant and Christian young man. passionate about humanity, alleviating suffering, restoring and promoting dignity, Sustainability, Inclusion, Innovation, inspiring wellness and being the difference. I was brought up to love and serve, whether in church, community or among friends. This shaped my worldview, and made me empathetic. For this, I am grateful to my parents, Hartness and Fungai Samushonga.

In 2020, During lockdown, at the age of 16. a lot of young people went through a really tough time. lost routine, face-to-face connection, It wasn't just boredom - it was loneliness, anxiety, and to some serious mental health struggles. I decided to write, produce a song and music video to encourage people my age, giving a ray of hope.

That experience made me realise how powerful creativity can be when you use it with intention. Since then, I've been mentoring young music artists - helping them write, produce, and take their first steps in the industry. I don't do it for money - I do it because I remember what it felt like starting out, and I know how far a bit of belief and guidance can go.

And through all this, I've continued working in care. I've delivered personal support to the elderly people with compassion, dignity and respect . That taught me lessons you don't get in any classroom.

For me, entrepreneurship is more than building something for yourself - it's finding ways to help others. I started my first business at the age of 8, selling sweets at school - using pocket money as capital. It wasn't simple, but it taught me about risk, reward, and diligence. Since then, I've continued working in our family's care, consultancy, and tech businesses - gaining experience by doing, not just studying.

More recently, through our family's consultancy, I partnered with a UAE-based company and co-pioneered the registration process for UK businesses to operate in UAE, including the legal and setup steps.

Foujia Begum

Foujia Anjum Abdus Begum is an activist, advocate and volunteer for her community, the environment and humanity. She turned her own barriers into a driving force to help others. She's a Law student at University College London. And over the past few years, through mentoring, advocacy, and the arts, she's dedicated herself to opening doors for marginalized communities.

My name is Foujia, and I have just concluded my A-Levels in English Literature, Politics, Religious Studies, and Spanish. This September, I will begin a Law degree at University College London. As someone who cares deeply about change-driving initiatives, I serve as the talent ambassador for the Migrant Leaders program, encouraging migrants like myself to pursue careers in the corporate world and live lives of choice and opportunity. My empathy stems from coming to the UK five years ago without speaking English. Born in Bangladesh and raised in Spain until 13, I experienced many barriers faced by EAL (English as an Additional Language) students.

Motivated to improve circumstances for myself and others, I mentored migrant students who spoke Spanish, Hindi, or Bengali, helping with schoolwork, revision, and translation. I also run a Spanish

debating club and a Debating and Drama club, focusing on boosting confidence for young migrants. I dedicate my time outside studies to providing meaningful support, whether through second-hand book sales for students facing financial difficulties, charity events, or raising awareness about violence and social issues through poetry and music.

For the past two years, I have focused on advocacy to highlight the limited resources for EAL students, especially in secondary education. Many, including myself, struggled in classrooms due to a lack of guidance and support. I now volunteer with the Fair Education Alliance, aiming to tackle educational inequality.

In partnership with the Foundation for Education Development, I have spoken on panels at the Labour Party Conference and engaged with MPs and policymakers, including at Parliament. I aim to continue advocating for a better education system while running personal initiatives to support my community firsthand.

Gabriel Kadiri

Gabriel Kadiri is a relentlessly driven individual with a vision not just to succeed, but to uplift others through action, integrity, and purpose. His work as a Youth Ambassador didn't just inspire - it challenged his peers to lead, speak up, and believe that their voice could shift societal norms.

My name is Gabriel, and I'm an 18-year-old who has just finished A-levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, and Physics, reflecting my aspiration to study Aerospace Engineering.

I know I'm meant to talk about the good I've done for others, but I can't say I've done it alone. Everything I've achieved has been with the help of my friends, who have worked alongside me to better the community we've grown up in.

This has all been possible through Elevated Minds, a company I'm proud to be part of. I joined by chance when I couldn't find work experience, and an opportunity came up at my sixth form. "Beggars can't be choosers," so I took it, and I'm glad I did.

"Everything happens for a reason" has never been clearer to me than during my year with Elevated Minds. Doreen, the CEO, brought me into their aspiration programme, allowing us to visit and learn about different parts of the criminal justice system - something I was initially hesitant about due to experiences of friends and family with the police.

However, it became a turning point. It allowed me and my peers to raise awareness about how stop and search could be handled with more respect, addressing unconscious biases that affect certain ethnic groups. We helped deliver the Race Action Plan, giving young people like us a platform to raise issues and present solutions to future police officers to reduce these biases in their work. Through Elevated Minds, I've hosted and taken part in events like gatherings at Lambeth Town Hall and a talent show at Southwark Council, which helped improve my public speaking and, more importantly, created spaces for our community to bond, discuss, and put into practice the changes we want to see. I'm a Christian, and whether you are religious or not, I believe the values of looking out for your neighbours are essential in society. These are values I've developed in my youth group, the Victory Youth Group (VYG), inspiring me and others to build character and seek the change we want to see in our community, which I dearly love.

Gracie Nuttall

"Gracie Nuttall- trustee of the Be More Laura Foundation, co-host of The Dead Sibling Society podcast, and a powerful voice raising awareness of sibling grief and brain tumours, especially glioblastoma."

Gracie Nuttall is a 22 year old from Pendle, Lancashire. In 2018, when Gracie was 16, her older sister Laura was diagnosed with aggressive brain cancer, Glioblastoma. Laura was 18 and given less than 12 months to live.

Gracie helped to care for Laura whilst juggling her GCSEs and then her Alevels. She and her family campaigned for more funding and better research into brain tumours all whilst Laura was having her treatment. Working alongside The Brain Tumour Charity to fundraise, Gracie ran two half marathons and completed a skydive in order to raise money.

In May 2023, Laura died aged 23. Despite their grief, Gracie and her family immediately started a foundation, the "Be More Laura Foundation" in which they continue Laura's legacy of searching for kinder treatments and quicker diagnosis of brain tumours.

Gracie designed a graphic and logo for the charity which has been printed onto T-shirt's, mugs, tote bags

and posters in order to fundraise. Gracies design is now worn on thousands of t shirts globally. The foundation has since donated over £100,000 to various research projects and experimental trials to help the treatment of brain cancer.

Alongside this, since losing her sister, Gracie found a huge lack of support for sibling bereavement, so has made it her mission to start a conversation on sibling loss.

Along with Callum Fairhurst, who runs the only sibling specific bereavement charity, Gracie has started a podcast, "The Dead Sibling Society". The podcast has resonated with thousands of people globally, and has begun to open up a conversation specifically about sibling loss. Gracie and Callum have spoken about their own experience with sibling loss in order to open up a conversation- recently appearing on BBC Breakfast. Gracie has also used social media to do this by posting videos detailing her own experience with sibling loss on TikTok. These videos have been seen by over 35 million people, and have started a much needed dialogue about sibling loss. Gracie has and continues to receive and reply to hundreds of emails from people who have also lost siblings.

Innayah Aziz

Introduction: Please Welcome Innayah (pronounced In-eye-ah) Aziz, a dedicated police sergeant and community advocate, whose work spans across youth justice, hate crime awareness, and championing inclusion. Innayah also has a background in mental health, with a strong belief in early intervention, she works with young people to challenge inequality and promote a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Speech 'The award I receive today is not just my award but, the award of every single person who has supported me in my journey that's called life. The motivation, wisdom and empowerment has shaped me into the person I am today. So I couldn't stand here today without thanking and recognising those people. My ethos has always been to help others, and I am fortunate to be in a position that I can do that everyday as a serving police officer. Life throws us many setbacks and challenges that can throw us down and try and keep us there. Having had my own shared experience of this and do doubt experience many more in the future, like all of us in this room.

We have to persevere and grow, but help each other too. I was always told from a young age, "Do good and good will come to you". And I stand by that. My journey in doing that has included at 16 volunteering to support young children with disabilities to engage in sports programmes to thrive. At 18 I provided care for adults with complex illnesses in their homes, building relationships and emotional support too.

As well as also volunteering in the community to support vulnerable adults with mental health conditions to flourish in the community, such as a male with schizophrenia that was afraid of public spaces, and the support led to him having coffee in a busy café*.

Some of that I work - did was at 18 years old, and I highlight that today because I feel it is perceived that people of that age do not have life experience. What is not recognised is the passion, willingness and drive to make change that young people have, and so I advocate that we give young people the opportunity and environment to showcase that. To build a legacy in shaping our society for the future.'

Kisan Sockalingam

Kisan (pronounced "Kishan") Sockalingam, is a private investment professional working in London, currently serving as the COO (Chief Operating Officer) for a new arts and cultural charity that is being set up in the heart of London, opening to the public in October.

Kisan is a former Youth Leader, now Advisor and Volunteer at the Balaji Temple UK, Oldbury, West Midlands involved in activities such as running a Youth Camp for kids aged 8 to 21 for a week, organising cultural and spiritual activities throughout the camp for the campers, ranging from prayers in the morning, to interactive workshops with lecturers in the day, to sport and dance workshops in the afternoon.

Kisan is a volunteer and mentor through the UPF network with various youth engagement activities in the Birmingham area. He is also a mentor to school and university students supporting young people from all backgrounds on careers, and conducts mock interviews (mostly in the finance sector, completely free), with many successfully securing job offers / university places through his help.

Kisan also serves on the committee of the England Kabaddi Union (EKU), with a mission to promote the ancient sport of Kabaddi across England via schools and universities, through organising training sessions and amateur tournaments across the country.

Mathew Johnson

Mathew is a current undergraduate student who is passionate about improving access to higher education through student-led events.

Mathew is a first-year Economics student at the University of Warwick. He has been involved with numerous student-led initiatives, most recently serving as the Master of Ceremonies for the Warwick Economics Summit - Europe's largest student-run academic conference - and playing a key role in fostering academic inclusion, organising the attendance of 500+ students from 40 global universities.

He is passionate about driving youth involvement in mentoring and peer groups, supporting young people from underprivileged backgrounds in achieving their career goals. He serves as Managing Director of Pontis, a free mobile app connecting students with work experience placements in their local area. Having established partnerships with 50+ local businesses in the North West, he has connected students with industry-leading firms across varied sectors, from farming to finance.

As a Talent Ambassador for Migrant Leaders - a charity connecting young people with corporates - he has also delivered numerous talks to promote their Talent Development Programme, creating opportunities for young people to receive mentorship from senior executives in their chosen field.

Memphis Ayode

Memphis is deeply passionate about youth empowerment and social action, driven by a mission to provide young voices with a platform for expression and growth. everywhere. Memphis's story is a testament to resilience, passion, and an relentless commitment to making a difference.

At the young age of 17, Memphis achieved a significant milestone by publishing a self-help book aimed at guiding individuals through life's challenges. The book's impact transcended borders, resonating with readers across continents in India, Australia, the United States, and UK. Its profound messages have served as a source of hope and inspiration, showcasing Memphis's innate ability to uplift and empower others.

Driven by a belief in the power of alternative educational pathways to success, Memphis advocates for accessible opportunities, particularly through apprenticeships. Through speaking engagements and collaborations with various institutions, Memphis endeavours to inform and empower youth, encouraging them to explore diverse avenues toward achieving their goals.

As a young director at Reachout2all CIC and a dedicated advisor at Buildingpathwaysuk CIC, Memphis leads by example, delivering initiatives aimed at uplifting underrepresented communities, providing essential resources and support. A few examples; organising events to facilitating workshops on critical topics such as financial literacy, mental health and public speaking. Memphis's impact extends deeply within his community and beyond.

Minnat Allah Mohammed

As an immigrant to the UK from a single-parent, working-class family, I have always been aware of the disadvantages I face and aimed to succeed despite them. This initially meant leadership and academic success: I became Form Representative, Deputy Head Girl, Prefect, and achieved straight grade 9s at GCSE, earning a full scholarship to a top London private school.

As I grew older, I realised I didn't just want to overcome obstacles; I wanted to change the system. I educated myself on discrimination and class inequality, which drove me to accept the private school offer to understand the differences in education outcomes.

At the private school, I was one of few Black and the only hijabi student in my year, determined to have my voice heard. I became Head Girl, won awards in Debating and Model UN, and was runner-up in the school's public speaking competition, where I spoke on the hijab and feminism. I also founded a Cultural Awareness Society, led the Islamic Society, and joined the Inclusion Committee to amplify other students' voices.

I realised the key difference between private and state schools was not content, but focus on skills like confidence and advocacy, which state schools often overlook due to grade pressures. To learn more, I began volunteering at nurseries and primary schools in disadvantaged areas and joined Impart UK to deliver debating training. As a Migrant Leaders Talent Ambassador, I work to increase career support for disadvantaged youth, and as Vice Chair of Newham Fabians, I contribute to local policy discussions on education.

Now, I am building a startup to partner with schools, promoting holistic education that prioritises

confidence, independence, and advocacy, not just grades. Bright working-class students deserve opportunities to develop these skills to achieve social mobility, and my startup aims to disrupt the barriers preventing this.

Molly Fenton

Molly Fenton is a 21-year-old multi-award-winning activist who runs an international platform - The Love Your Period Campaign and campaigns for the The Brain Tumour Charity with her sister Tilly.

Molly Fenton is a 21-year-old multi-award-winning activist who runs an international platform - The Love Your Period Campaign - for breaking down stigmas and starting vital conversations about menstruation and other young women's topics that are often overlooked. With members aged 14 to 87, to campaigns aims to provide a community of 'big sisters' we wish we had growing up.

Molly lives with chronic illness including an inoperable brain tumour, so wants to ensure girls know about their bodies in a non-stigmatised and non-sexualised way for illness prevention and early intervention. Molly is an ambassador for the Everywoman Health Festival and The Brain Tumour Charity and has won multiple awards for her voluntary devotion to girls rights and access to education in areas across the globe through community friendly approach to creating safe spaces for girls to never be held back by their hormones as she was, therefore bettering quality of life.

Nafisah Queen Abdullahi

Nafisa Abdullahi, a model, aspiring Diplomat and the founder, The Ejura Foundation. A passionate advocate for Peace, Women and Children

My name is Nafisah, and I stand before you as a passionate advocate for peace, unity, and social progress. I come from a background marked by challenges, particularly the loss of my parents at a young age. Losing my father when I was just about two years of age was a profound loss, leaving my mother to navigate the complexities of parenthood alone. She became my anchor, my guiding light, and my superwoman. Together, we weathered life's storms, finding solace in each other's embrace. However, tragedy struck again when I lost her on my 13th year birthday. These losses left deep scars in my heart. In the wake of her passing, I found myself grappling with grief and longing for the warmth of her embrace. The name "Ejura," is my mother's name which means "Beauty/Radiance of the face," is my way of honouring my mother's memory. She was deeply involved in charitable work, even when we had little to spare. She cared for the less privileged and even adopted two children who had lost their parents in a motor accident. Following her example, I founded The Ejura Charity Foundation dedicated to serving humanity and to continue her legacy of kindness and compassion. The Ejura Charity Foundation has spearheaded a multitude of initiatives aimed at addressing pressing social issues and uplifting the marginalized. From engaging in different community services and empowerment programs to organising sensitization programs to combat the widespread of drug abuse and addiction, to promoting education and gender equality. Our efforts have touched the lives of countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark of hope and possibility. Upon relocating to the UK to pursue my master's degree, I found myself drawn to the Hull Community and Voluntary Service. As the passion drives me, I volunteered with them, and I had the opportunity to lead a campaign on "Violence against Women and Children," shedding light on a pressing issue that has plagued our society for far too long. Through awareness, education, and advocacy, we sought to create a safer, more compassionate world for all. My dream for The Ejura Charity Foundation is simple, to gain the spotlight and recognition it deserves, and to partner and collaborate with NGOs, government agencies, and businesses around the globe to effect positive change on a global scale. Driven by a deep commitment to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals set by prestigious organizations such as the United Nations and UNESCO, UNICEF, ECOWAS etc. Receiving the Young Achievers Award would be an immense honour for me. It would not only recognize my personal journey but also honour the memory of my beloved parents and all departed souls. It would serve as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, we can create meaningful change.

Nishi Joshi-Bhatt

I am a young entrepreneur, policy researcher and creative , founder of award winning community- facing international dance company Dance Shakti, and United Nations Commision on the Status of women UK civic society youth advocate.

Nishi is a choreographer, performer and civic leader based in London. At 15, Nishi founded 'Dance Shakti', a dance troupe inspired by the female power: 'Shakti'. With a special emphasis on helping promote cultural diversity and community integration, since its formation, Dance Shakti has helped raise thousands of pounds for charities including BBC Children in Need, Cancer Research UK, and awareness for key platforms including female-participation in STEM. Alongside Dance Shakti, as well as a solo artist, Nishi has performed internationally at arts festivals and cultural events. In 2017 she was the youngest choreographer to bring her group and perform at the Mayor of London's Diwali on Trafalgar

Square in front of over 35,000 people. She was selected as one of 20 young choreographers across the UK to showcase her work at Studio 3 Arts' Vital Stages Showcase. She is currently studying International Development at King's College London. She is a Kings' Civic Leaders 2019/20, working with 'Breaking Barriers', a charity dedicated to help educate refugees in the UK to better integrate and empower them. In 2018 she was given the High Sheriff of Surrey's Youth Recognition Award for her contribution to the community through the arts.

Odysseas Kapelas

Born in 2008 in London to migrant parents, Odysseas Kapelas is a passionate athlete, adventurer, writer, and coach. He excels in tennis, basketball, and football, earning trophies both individually and in team competitions. As a qualified Assistant Tennis Coach with the LTA, he works at Wigmore Tennis Club, coaching children aged 5 - 11 while studying for his Level 2 certification. Alongside these accomplishments, he is a dedicated Sixth Form student in Lambeth, balancing academics with his many extracurricular commitments.

During Sixth Form, Odysseas became actively involved in organising charity events and fundraising initiatives. He worked with the charity group Knives and organised a basketball fundraising match. Additionally, he is collaborating with the Mark Everson Foundation to complete a physical challenge, with plans to fundraise for his own trip. He also served as a mentor for KSG 4, offering guidance and support to help students with their schoolwork and personal development.

Odysseas is an adventurer at heart, having climbed Mount Olympus (2,918m) at age 10. His expeditions include Mount Saos, Snowdonia, the 96-mile West Highland Way, and Ben Nevis (1,345m), the highest peak in the UK. He also conquered Snowdon (1,085m), the highest mountain in Wales. His most recent challenge was a 41km journey over three days to the summit of Mount Athos (2,033m) in Greece. He has also completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at both Bronze and Silver levels, further demonstrating his commitment to personal growth, teamwork, and community involvement.

Inspired by his adventures, Odysseas wrote two books so far in his Odysseas Adventure Series " A Boy's Adventure to the Top of Mount Olympus" and "A Boy's Adventure on the Mystic Island of the Great Gods" Also, he is the youngest certified Goal Mapping Coach, and he is passionate about helping children build confidence, resilience, and success.

In an age where young people are becoming increasingly disconnected from nature, Odysseas is determined to make a difference. Through his goal map coaching, writing, and real-life adventures, he shares engaging stories and practical guidance to motivate young minds to embrace outdoor activities. His work fosters physical fitness, mental well-being, and resilience, creating a lasting positive impact on youth development.

Rhoslyn Singh

Rhoslyn Singh is an artist and Biomedical Engineering student who blends creative expression with scientific innovation to promote empowerment and inclusion.

Rhoslyn Singh is a 19-year-old artist and a Biomedical Engineering student at the University of Kent. She has left a mark in the art world with exhibitions spanning several countries, including Nepal, the UK, and Qatar. She finds solace and expression in her art, balancing it with academic demands. Rhoslyn's versatility in her artworks shines through in her use of various mediums such as watercolor, pen, and pencil, each stroke depicting depth and emotion. Her art is a celebration of women and empowerment, each piece a testament to the strength and resilience found within.^{[1][1][1]}^[SEP]At the University of Kent, Rhoslyn leads the Marketing for the Kent Investment Society, Cultural societies and runs the events for the Engineering Society. With an innovative approach and strategic prowess, she spearheads dynamic campaigns that not only promote the societies but also inspire individuals becoming integral parts of their vibrant communities. Through her leadership, she encourages young women to embrace STEM fields. At the same time, she seamlessly blends her passion for art with her commitment to community engagement.^[1]^[SEP]

Sara Tennant

In 2022, four months after graduating from Surrey University with a Criminology degree, I secured a position at the Medaille Trust, despite having no prior experience. Now, as a Caseworker on the Moving On Project, I support survivors of slavery and trafficking to rebuild their lives with guidance, compassion, and knowledge, empowering them to live free from exploitation.

The Medaille Trust works with law enforcement and charities to support identified and potential victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. As First Responders to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), we help victims access the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC). The Medaille Trust

has a 90% success rate with NRM referrals, meaning victims receive the support they need, which can be life-changing.

Personally and professionally, I believe the Medaille Trust supports vulnerable individuals through their entire recovery journey, from first contact to gaining full autonomy. The trust placed in me has allowed me to learn, grow, and put into practice values I hold dear. Life is precious, kindness is paramount, and freedom from fear should be a right for all.

Growing up in SE Asia, I wanted to 'do' something. Early ambitions faded as I saw global disparities firsthand while volunteering among Hill Tribes to support sustainable farming and reduce vulnerabilities. Travels across Burma, Bhutan, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand showed me the unfairness and lack of opportunity many face. During my A-levels, I researched modern-day slavery and human rights violations against the Rohingya, surprising many peers who were unaware these issues existed in 2019.

At university, my dissertation explored how climate change and modern slavery are interlinked, highlighting the need for awareness. A recent presentation at a local university confirmed many students entering frontline sectors have little knowledge of modern slavery.

The Medaille Trust is busy, with new cases daily. Numbers will likely rise as war, famine, climate change, and inequality persist. In 2021, 28 million people were in forced labour, with women and children disproportionately affected.

Where do we go from here? Awareness among employers, consumers, volunteers, and the public is essential to combat this global issue. For now, the Medaille Trust continues its vital work, dealing with challenging cases daily, driven by the vision of a world free from exploitation.

Together, we can make it happen.

Sophia Mok

Sophia is a 2nd Year Dean's List Bioengineering student at the Imperial College London. From mentoring underprivileged youth, to empowering women's health and technology, to transforming a major injury into change, she embodies the powerful belief that "challenges are just invitations to innovate"

Sophia Mok, 19, is a first-year Molecular Bioengineering student at Imperial College London, serving as Academic Representative for her course. She has been nominated to chair the Imperial Femtech Society, a 250+ strong group passionate about bridging women's health and technology through panels, lectures, and startup fairs.

Inspired by her teachers, Sophia tutors five students in Maths, English, Sciences, and essay writing, becoming financially independent and donating excess earnings to United World Schools, a charity she supports.

Active and strong, Sophia is a competitive karate champion and weightlifter, winning 3rd place in Kumite at the 2020 World Shotokan Karate Federation Championships. At Li Po Chun United World College in Hong Kong, she graduated with a 43/45 IB score, earning Best in the Nation for Physics and Chemistry, and conducted research on biosensors and enzymes in baking.

Sophia has excelled in Model United Nations, achieved Best in China for IGCSE English World Literature, and continues teaching English. She also led her college's Dragon Dance team, which performed widely and gained significant recognition.

Tilly Fenton

Tilly Fenton is a 17-year-old Cardiff student whose spare time is devoted to being a young carer for her sister Molly and the Brain Tumour Charity

Tilly became Molly's carer at 12 years old and the past 5 years has campaigned with Molly for the Brain Tumour Charity, removing the idea that 'benign is not fine' and young people can get sick too. Tilly also helped co-found the campaign Love Your Period and stepped in to run the period poverty and stigma campaign when her sister couldn't. Tilly led a march of 300 people through London to hand in period stories to 10 Downing Street and has worked internationally raising awareness with charities Irise International and Plan International UK. Tilly missed a lot of school and has had the challenges of her sister's health thrown at her but never gave in. studying from hospital waiting rooms and staying at her sister's side. Today the sisters campaign together internationally for girls' rights whether it's access to period products, keeping them in education, or for young people and their families when illness strikes.

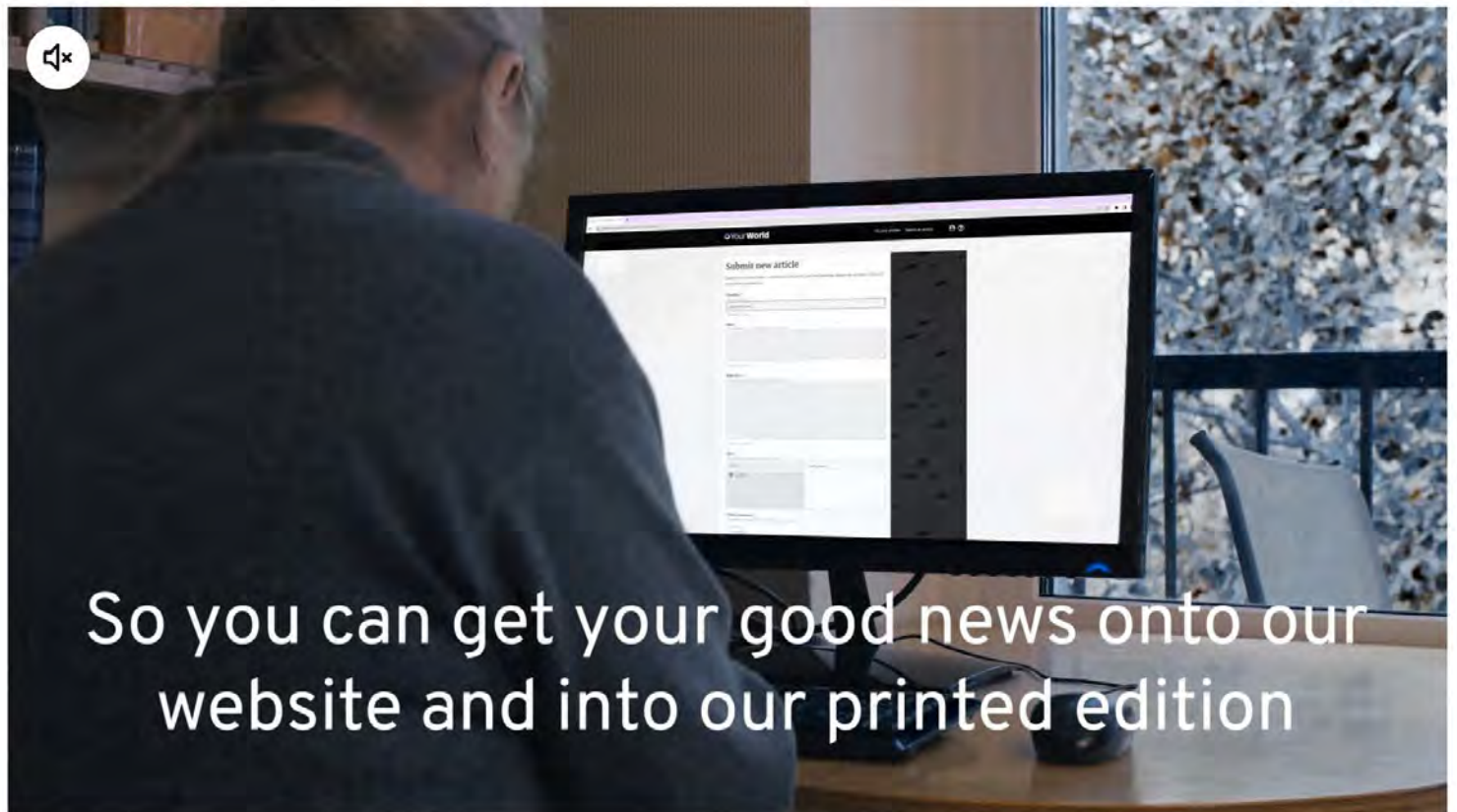
Community

London sustainability leader Otto Canon receives Youth Achievement Award at House of Lords

By Sangita Shrestha Contributor



Published 11th Jul 2025, 22:44 BST
Updated 14th Jul 2025, 10:36 BST



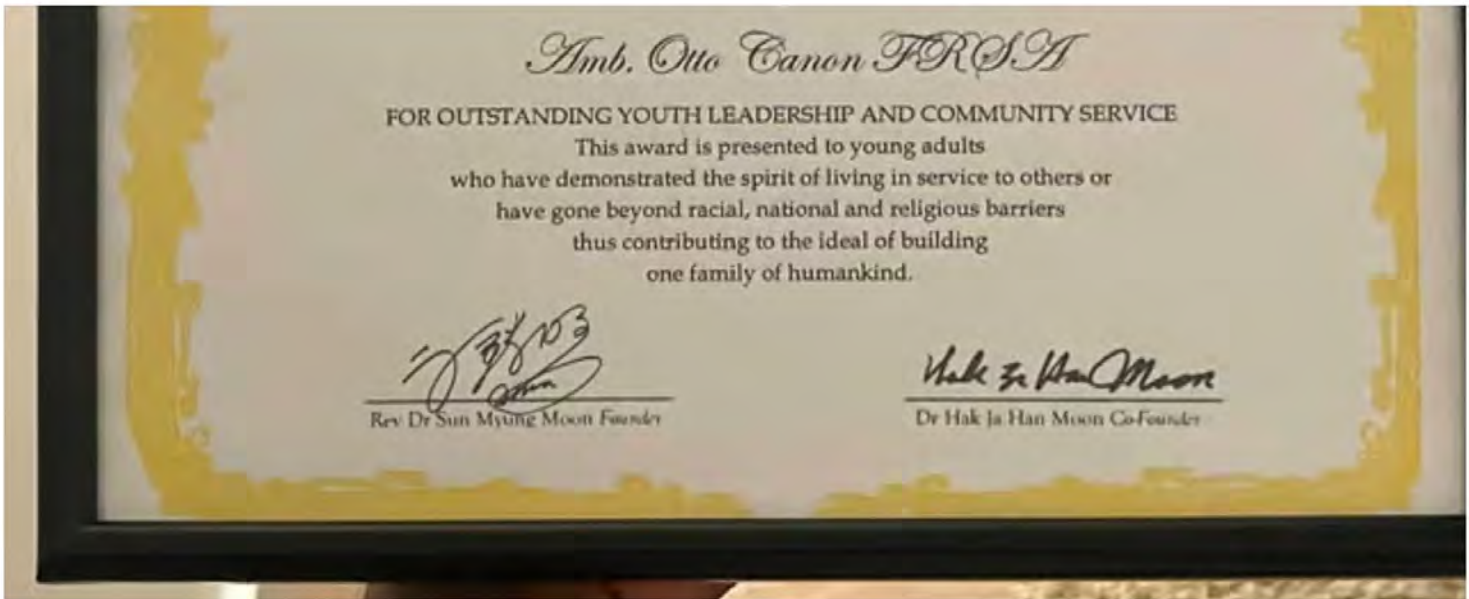
Otto Canon, Sustainability Consultant and Executive Director of CleanCyclers, has been honoured with the prestigious Youth Achievement Award by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in recognition of his dedication to environmental sustainability and grassroots leadership during the event held last week (on 1 July).

The award was presented during a distinguished ceremony at the House of Lords, celebrating young changemakers making tangible impact in their communities and beyond. x8g3qyt

He is the Founder and Executive Director of CleanCyclers—a London based social enterprise committed to building a planet where people and nature can thrive through the recycling of various materials.

In his acceptance speech, Canon called on his peers to embrace leadership in the face of the global climate emergency:





Youth Achievement Award certificate

“I stand before you not just as a sustainability leader, but as a citizen of a planet in urgent need of healing. Our environment is breaking—visibly, rapidly—and for the past decade, I’ve dedicated my life to answering that crisis with bold action, innovation, and heart.”

Canon, who has worked across continents to promote climate resilience, circular economy initiatives, and community engagement, highlighted the power of youth-driven action and collaboration:

“The future is not something we inherit, it’s something we build. Let’s build a world where both people and planet can thrive.”

Robin Marsh, Secretary General of UPF UK, underscored the value of recognising young leaders:



Otto Canon receiving Youth Achievement Award at the House of Lords.

“The Universal Peace Federation has been holding the Youth Achievement Award for about the past 15 years. Youth idealism is so attractive and compelling. We want to work with it, harness it, and encourage it. Congratulations to all the Young Achievers.”

Canon’s work continues to inspire a new generation of sustainability champions and community advocates in the UK and globally.

Follow us on



Explore

- News
- Sport
- Football
- What's On
- Lifestyle
- Your London
- Recommended

Useful Links

- Contact Us
- Advertise My Business
- Place your Ad
- Archive
- Subscribe
- Announcements
- Celebrations
- Jobs
- Publisher Guidelines

Community

Young Crawley artist Rhoslyn Singh receives Youth Achievement Award at Houses of Parliament ceremony

By Sangita Shrestha

Contributor



Published 2nd Jul 2025, 16:43 BST

Updated 2nd Jul 2025, 16:52 BST

Unmute



YourWorld Top Stories

Wednesday 2 July, 2025

Rhoslyn Singh, a gifted young artist and Biomedical Engineering student from Crawley, has been honoured with the Youth Achievement Award by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in recognition of her exceptional youth leadership and commitment to community service. The award was formally presented by MP Jim Dickson during a distinguished ceremony at the House of Lords in London.

“The Universal Peace Federation has been holding the Youth Achievement Award for about the past 15 years. Youth idealism is so attractive and compelling. We want to work with it, harness it, and encourage it. Congratulations to all the Young Achievers. We have many projects running where youth achievers are involved, and it is great to see them grow,” said Robin Marsh, Secretary General of UPF UK.

“It is a privilege to stand before you today as a recipient of the Youth Achievement Award. I am truly honoured and sincerely grateful to the Universal Peace Federation for this recognition and for your commitment to nurturing young leaders who strive to make a difference,” said Rhoslyn Singh in her acceptance speech.

At university, Rhoslyn has actively contributed to student life, helping to lead several societies focused on engineering and cultural engagement, always with a strong emphasis on inclusivity and community-building. She was recently appointed Vice President of the Women in STEM Society, where she advocates for representation and empowerment within technical fields.



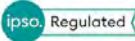


Audiences at the event.

Rhoslyn’s journey is a unique and inspiring fusion of art, science, and mathematics. Currently pursuing a degree in Biomedical Engineering, she continues to draw upon a childhood enriched by both analytical thinking and creative exploration. During her primary school years, she earned a place in the Top Ten (6th) in the UK-wide maths competition, competing with over 6,000 participants. She was also placed in the Top 3 (3rd) in the West Sussex Maths Challenge, which included more than 3,000 pupils.

This early aptitude in both mathematics and art has since matured into a distinctive interdisciplinary path, blending engineering precision with artistic imagination. Her creative work has been exhibited at notable venues including the Taragaon Museum (Nepal), The Hawth Theatre (Crawley), the UK Houses of Parliament, the Universal Peace Federation, the International Art Festival (Qatar), and the Embassy of Nepal in London.

Rhoslyn’s artistic journey began early, winning the WhaleFest Art Competition during her primary school years. She went on to attend Worth School, a private school in West Sussex, where she pursued both science and art at GCSE and A-Level.



This website and its associated newspaper are members of Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

Follow us on



Explore

- News
- Football
- Sport
- What's On
- Retro
- Lifestyle
- Your East Sussex
- Your West Sussex
- Recommended

More from Sussex World

- Announcements
- Celebrations
- Jobs
- Public Notices
- Must Read
- Photo Sales
- Newspaper Archive

Useful Links

- Contact Us
- Advertise My Business
- Place your Ad
- Archive
- Subscribe
- Events
- Publisher Guidelines