

International Women's Day **8th March 2021**

An Institute of Gender Studies and
Diversity Festival Collaboration:
**International Women's Day –
Leading the race for equality**



Institute of
Gender Studies

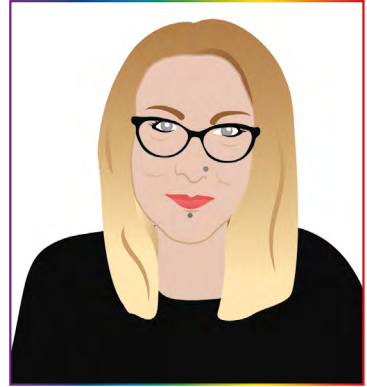


Programme:

- 12.50pm **Welcome and introduction to the event – Professor Emma Rees,**
Director of the Institute of Gender Studies
- 1.00pm **Dr Julie Mulliner,** Assistant Director of
Human Resources, University of Chester
- 1.15pm **Alana Lukens,** International Student
- 1.30pm **Carol Johnson-Eyre,**
Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Wirral
- 1.45pm **Sally Harding,** Employee Engagement Manager,
University of Chester
- 2.00pm **Q&A with Julie, Alana, Carol and Sally**
- 2.20pm **Break**
- 2.35pm **Baroness Valerie Amos,**
Master of University College Oxford
- 2.50pm **Professor Eunice Simmons,**
Vice Chancellor, University of Chester
- 3.10pm **Q&A**
- 3.20pm **Break**
- 3.30pm **Dr Vic Carr,** Headteacher,
Woodlands Primary School
- 3.45pm **Chiedza Ikpeh and Emma Taonga-Sayers,**
Co-Founders of RARA Education Project
- 4.00pm **Q&A with Vic, Chiedza and Emma**
- 4.15pm **Plenary and close – Prof Emma Rees**
- 4.30pm **Close**

**Professor Emma Rees,
Director of the Institute of
Gender Studies (IGS)**

Emma Rees is Professor of Literature and Gender Studies at the University of Chester, and Director of the Institute of Gender Studies. She lives in the wilds of Wales and has written extensively in the field of gender and representation. Her most recent book is *The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History* (Bloomsbury). She misses hugging her family and going to rock concerts and football matches. @institute.of.gender.studies (Instagram) & @IGSChester (Twitter)



**Dr Julie Mulliner,
Assistant Director of Human Resources,
University of Chester**

Julie Mulliner is Assistant Director of Human Resources (Leadership and Organisational Development) at the University of Chester, is a Human Resource professional which spans 35 years across a number of public and private sectors.

Julie is passionate about creating a working environment where staff feel valued, supported and motivated to do their best –

the key to achieving this is through leaders who demonstrate particular attributes, values and mindset.

Based on Julie's experiences and achievements throughout her career and her studies, MA 'Psychological Contract Fulfilment: The Importance of the Annual Appraisal' and PhD 'Employee Engagement, Resilience, Motivation and Leadership: an exploration of relationships within a Higher Education Institution' research, Julie highlights five characteristics of a leader which have enabled her to achieve what she has achieved to date.

Alana Lukens,
International Student

Alana Lukens is a third year international social work student who will be graduating in 2021. Alana is from Oregon in the U.S and was adopted from India at the age of 1 to two American mothers. Alana is the founder of the Empowerment Project, an initiative to raise awareness of and for international voices in the UK. Alana's passion is cultural awareness, identity, diversity, inclusion and feminism.



Carol Johnson-Eyre,
Chief Executive Officer,
Citizens Advice Wirral

Carol Johnson-Eyre has been Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Advice Wirral since 2015 leading the organisation to deliver innovative advice and NHS funded social prescribing services across Wirral. She had previously led programmes of work in the NHS and Transport sectors, supporting communities to improve their lives and health.

As a female leader, she is proud of raising her 2 children, who are now 20 and 27, while gaining a degree and becoming a leader in a variety of roles. Carol also takes pride in supporting and developing future leaders in the Community and Voluntary sector and helping people who are unemployed to gain employment through mentoring and providing volunteering opportunities.

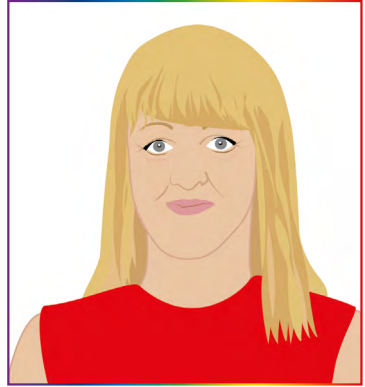
Carol has volunteered in a range of roles for over 25 years including for 7 years as a Governor at a large local Secondary school and she currently helps out at a local Brownies.

Sally Harding,
Employer Engagement Manager,
University of Chester

Sally Harding has been Employer Engagement Manager, within Careers and Employability, Student Futures, since 2010 having worked at the University of Chester for nearly seventeen years in a variety of roles.

As a female leader, Sally is also the proud Mother of twelve-year-old twins and manages to work full-time alongside juggling a busy family life.

Outside of work Sally's leisure time involves being an active squad member of a local netball team. Not only does she play competitive, league netball she also holds the voluntary role of Club Secretary/Manager which involves carrying out all aspects of the management and administration of the club which she has been involved with for in excess of twelve years.



Baroness Valerie Amos,
Master of University College Oxford

Baroness Valerie Amos is the Master of University College Oxford. She was appointed a Labour life peer in 1997 and was the first black woman to serve in a British Cabinet as Secretary of State for International Development. She went on to become Leader of the House of Lords. She has consistently sustained an interest in, and commitment to, issues of equality and social justice. Baroness Amos' career has spanned local and national government in the

UK as well as global leadership in her role as Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs at the United Nations. Baroness Amos also served as UK High Commissioner to Australia and between 1994 and 1998 worked extensively in South Africa.

Her work in the voluntary and charity sector and in non-governmental organisations has gone hand in hand with her policy and political work. In addition to being a patron of the Amos Bursary, Valerie sits on the board of the Mastercard Foundation, the UN Foundation, and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. She is also a board member of the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative, Institute of Government, and Grenfell Foundation.



**Professor Eunice Simmons,
Vice Chancellor, University of Chester**

In January 2020, Professor Eunice Simmons joined the University of Chester as Vice-Chancellor after heading up Nottingham Trent University (NTU's) Academic and Student Affairs directorate for five years. Previously Eunice has worked in diverse institutions including University of London's Wye and Imperial Colleges, UCLan and the University of Cumbria. She is an environmentalist by academic background and is on the Board of EAUC; the sustainability champion for universities and colleges in the UK. Throughout her career she has championed access to university and currently chairs the national 'What Works' centre called TASO which researches how to Transform Access and Student Outcomes.



**Dr Vic Carr, Headteacher,
Woodlands Primary School**

Victoria is a primary school headteacher in the North West of England, a post she has held for seven years. She is a mum of two teenagers. In her spare time, she is a British Army reservist and also lectures on the MA programme in Educational Leadership (previously at Chester University and currently at Liverpool Hope). In addition, she has completed two MAs (in Equality & Diversity and Educational Leadership) and a doctorate, and is currently studying for a

third MA with Bucks University, in Military History. She loves sport, cooking, and the outdoors. She has presented a TEDx on The Power of Language and how we can all be 'everyday heroes', has done several podcasts and blogs, most recently for the British Educational Research Association (BERA).

Chiedza Ikpeh,
Co-Founder of RARA
Education Project

Chiedza Jane Ikpeh is a Zimbabwean-born, and British-raised Educator with a heart and passion to empower her community through teaching and learning. As a secondary English teacher and co-founder of the RARA Education Project, Chiedza is actively working to advocate positive attitudes towards Black representation, Black education and Black participation in education spaces. With a BSc in Psychology, an MSc in Human Resource Management and a PGCE in Secondary English, Chiedza continues her academic quest through a doctoral programme in Social Justice in Education, where she is investigating the reality of Black female representation in Higher Education.



Emma Taonga-Sayers,
Co-Founder of RARA
Education Project

Emma Taonga was raised in Yorkshire and has Zambian-British heritage. Emma deeply believes in empowering communities through shared knowledge and resources and has worked in both charity and academic institutions for many years.



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