

# News story: 'Forward Ladies' entrepreneur Etta Cohen honored

Etta Cohen founded '[Forward Ladies](#)' in 1999. She began her organisation by meeting with locally employed women and women who had founded their own businesses. 'Forward Ladies' now supports more than 1,300 business women across the country and hosts more than 300 events a year.

The honour has been given as the world recognises International Women's Day on 8 March, where the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women is celebrated.

Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility Margot James said:

This honour is a tribute to Etta's outstanding commitment to raising the profile of women in the work place.

As the world celebrates International Women's Day this week, it's important to remember how much more successful our economy is thanks to the increased contribution of women.

We need more women making decisions at the top of business, and people like Etta have the drive and vision to help make that happen.

The name 'Forward Ladies' was suggested for Etta's group because it reflects her determination to develop and encourage women from all levels of professional life. She has worked tirelessly to organise training days, talks from inspirational business speakers and networking events to grow her organisation into the success it is today.

Now with a small team behind her, the sustainable business supports 13,000 business woman and runs more than 350 events a year from trade missions to networking events.

She also promotes diversity and equality at both regional and national levels working closely with key government agencies. 'Forward Ladies' operates across 10 UK regions and believes that women from all cultures should play in the building of future prosperity. Etta sits on a range of boards across different industries, notably the Yorkshire Asian Business Association (YABA).

The ceremony was conducted this week at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

An OBE is a Queen's honour given to an individual for a major local role in any activity such as business, charity or the public sector. OBE stands for

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.