

Business leaders aiming to boost diversity and inclusion in the workplace

The Men As Change Agents (MACA) “Lead the Change” Board will see some of the most experienced names in business come together to work with organisations across the country, with the aim of encouraging business leaders to act as Change Agents to promote diversity and inclusion in business, and achieving greater equality and opportunity at the top of companies.

Chairing the board will be Emer Timmons and Denis Woulfe MBE.

As part of their work, the MACA “Lead the Change” Board will support the Hampton-Alexander Review to help target 33% of executive level FTSE 350 business leaders are women by the end of 2020. Board members will also work to increase the ethnic diversity in an effort to ensure that each FTSE 100 board should have at least one ethnic minority director by 2021, and each FTSE 250 board should have at least one ethnic minority director by 2024, supporting the work being delivered by Sir John Parker.

In the Board’s opening meeting today, the co-chairs will emphasise how diversity and inclusion is good for business, with organisations in the top 25% for gender diversity on their executive teams, 21% more likely to have profits above their industry average.

Minister for Women and Equalities, Liz Truss, said:

“Companies that exclude smart, hard-working women because of their gender are missing out on a huge amount of talent. The Men As Change Agents Board is led by heads of business, and they will be using their expertise and influence to work with organisations.

“Equality at work has a huge benefit to business, the economy and society. I want it to be just as easy for an ambitious women to get a job as an ambitious man.”

Emer Timmons and Denis Woulfe MBE, MACA- lead the change Co-Chairs, said:

“It is now widely accepted that the workplace needs to become more diverse and inclusive and there is much more that the business community can do to lead the change.

“We hope that by increasing the number of supportive senior business leaders, the current majority of whom are male, as change agents, and by sharing best practice and ideas which make a difference, we can help accelerate the change we all want to see.”

As part of the Men As Change Agents initiative, business leaders are invited to pledge to:

1. To take personal responsibility for promoting better diversity and inclusion in your business and striving to achieve the targets set out by the Hampton-Alexander and Parker reviews.
2. To promote better diversity and inclusion by sponsoring 1-3 individuals from an underrepresented group within your organisation who have the potential to secure an executive role within 3 years.
3. To be an active and visible Change Agent by being part of the wider business conversation and achieving better diversity and inclusion within your organisation as a result.

Notes to editors:

The MACA Board website, with further information on how to sign up, can be found here tomorrow (Wednesday) –

<http://www.menaschangeagents.com/whats-happening>

Full list of MACA “Lead the Change” Board members:

- Emer Timmons – Co-chair – Founder & CEO of ET Solutions GmbH and Non Executive Director
- Denis Woulfe MBE – Co-chair – Director of Denis Woulfe Consulting Ltd
- Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith CBE – A portfolio Non-Executive Director and Advisory Director with current positions which include the Airports Operator Association, Tideway, Mace Group and the Department of Education
- Michael Prescott – Group Managing Director, Hanover Communications
- Jonathan Bullock – A London based strategic adviser, start-up chairman, angel investor and executive coach
- Sir William Touche – London Senior Partner and Vice Chair at Deloitte
- Randall S. Peterson – Professor and Academic Director of the Leadership Institute at London Business School
- Caroline Waters OBE FRSA CiPD (Hons) – Deputy Chair of the EHRC, Vice President of Carers UK, RSPCA Trustee and Founder of CW Consulting Box
- Emma Codd – Partner of the UK professional services firm, Deloitte LLP, and Special Advisor on Inclusion for Deloitte Global
- Elysia McCaffrey – Deputy head of the Government Equalities Office and leads work on gender equality, primarily leading work to close the gender pay gap.

[Delivering on all the SDGs both home and abroad matters to us all](#)

Tuesday, 24 September

Mr. President, Your Excellencies,

Four years ago, the world came together, and rightly so. We came together to agree the Sustainable Development Goals.

And one of the things we all agreed upon, each and every one of us, that every child was no matter where they are in the world, has a right to an education, has a right to a fair chance and opportunity in life.

Education, and in particular, girls education, is a priority. It's a priority for the United Kingdom government and in particular, it is a priority for our Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Boris Johnson. He is passionate about girls education, and why? The reason is self-explanatory. There is good reason; by educating girls, we improve countless lives. We improve communities, we improve nations, we improve the world.

From curbing infant mortality, improving child health and boosting economic growth, educating girls, we can address a whole host of the world's economic and, yes, social challenges as well.

Yet, Your Excellencies, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, here are some facts, tragic facts:

There are about 131 million girls around the world who remain out of school. 27 million children in countries affected by conflict receive absolutely no education whatsoever. This has to change. Indeed, it must change.

We are not even close to achieving our target when it comes to the important issue of education. On current estimates, it will take another 80 years to achieve the equality of opportunity that we said we will deliver in 15 [years]. The task is in front of us. That means decades of girls who should be growing up to be doctors, to be teachers, to be entrepreneurs and prime ministers and presidents as well, having their dreams, their hopes, their opportunities, their ambitions snatched away from them. It cannot be right. Simply put, it is wrong. We must change and we must act. That is why the United Kingdom government has pledged to put its full weight behind championing 12 quality years of education for every single girl around the world, truly to say that we leave no girl behind. Between 2015 and 2019, the United Kingdom has supported at least five point eight million girls to gain a decent education, including those living in conflict zones.

But that is not enough. It is not good enough. And therefore, Mr President, Your Excellencies, on behalf of the United Kingdom government and our Prime Minister, in addition to the sums we have already committed for education around the world I use the opportunity today to announce that we are pledging a further £515 million, over half a billion pounds, to help over 12 million children, half of them girls, into school and most importantly, to keep them there. I call on everyone here on behalf of our Prime Minister to play their part and ensure that girls get the education they deserve, to get the opportunities they desire to fulfill the ambitions they have.

You know what, your Excellencies, get this right and we together collaboratively, collectively will solve some of the most major problems of the world. We will solve many of the problems confronting humanity today.

Delivering on all the SDGs, both home and abroad, matters to us all. They tackle the very issues that matter to people, to people in our country and my country and the United Kingdom and your country, to every country around the world. For we do care deeply about these important issues and we simply cannot achieve the SDGs if we leave half the global population behind. We must educate girls. We are committed to that. But it's not about talk alone. We must act and we must act now. Thank you.

PM meeting with President Sisi: 24 September 2019



The Prime Minister met President Sisi of Egypt today at the UN General Assembly in New York.

The leaders recalled their constructive meeting at the G7 Summit in Biarritz and reconfirmed their commitment to work together to build on the positive progress in our bilateral relationship.

They discussed our two countries' economic ties and the importance of building on this after the UK leaves the EU.

The Prime Minister and President also discussed their concerns about the situation in Libya.

Published 24 September 2019

PM meeting with Prime Minister Rutte:

24 September 2019



The Prime Minister met Prime Minister Rutte of the Netherlands at the UN General Assembly today.

They discussed the Brexit talks, and the ideas that the UK has been putting forward.

The Prime Minister underlined that he would prefer to leave the EU with a deal, but that in any event the UK would be leaving on 31 October.

He said that the UK would work energetically to secure a deal, but this would require movement and flexibility from both sides.

They also discussed Iran and the importance of working together and with international partners to reduce tensions in the region and prevent Iran developing a nuclear weapon.

Published 24 September 2019

PM meeting with President Erdogan: 24 September 2019



The Prime Minister met President Erdogan of Turkey today at the UN General Assembly.

They discussed the close friendship between our two countries and agreed to continue to build on this as the UK leaves the EU – including on trade.

The Prime Minister thanked the President for Turkey's extraordinary support for refugees who have fled the war in Syria.

The leaders looked forward to the NATO Leaders' Meeting in the UK in December.

Published 24 September 2019