



Ms Reba Waheed

Place of Residence: **London**
Sector: **Social (Community Development)**

Ms Reba Waheed has established a long standing career in community development. With a firm belief in the strength of education and the importance of investing back into the community, Ms Reba Waheed has helped to transform conditions within the Bengali community, the White City Somali Association and the homeless communities.

Ms Waheed has always promoted the importance of education and its necessity to breaking through poverty. Whilst a student, Ms Reba Waheed worked voluntarily for two years as teacher for HBA (Hammersmith Bengali Association) as well as the Bangladesh Centre. Indeed, Ms Waheed was one of the key individuals who restarted a community

organisation for Bengali people living in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

By focusing the Association's resources on education, Ms Reba Waheed enabled the association to now boast a supplementary school with an excellent success rate that has encouraged the majority of its pupil to go into higher or further education. Furthermore, through her work, Ms Waheed has assisted many women to enter education and pursue degrees or vocational courses. So far, she has helped women become nurses, interpreters, police, as well as committee members of the organisation she works for.

For over twelve years Reba has

been involved for the local Bengali community. She gives her time freely to the Association, making sure it is sustainable and that children are reaching their potential. Ms Reba Waheed has been the only Bengali female to hold the position of General Secretary in HBA and her success lies in the fact that she has always been appointed to the position no matter which team came on board.

Ms Waheed is a strong role model to her Bengali students as many of her ex-students have returned to the Association to either sit on the management committee or work as an employee to re-invest back into the opportunities for the next generation of Bengali students. This is in Ms Waheed's word, one of her proudest achievements.