



INSPIRE

Diversity & Inclusion
Speaker Brochure

 raise the bar™



Professor Steve Peters

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Professor Steve Peters has been a vital cog in one of the world's greatest ever sporting success stories, as well as the internationally acclaimed author of the international best selling book "The Chimp Paradox". In all areas, he helps people to understand how their mind works and to gain insight into their own unique mind and situation.



Charlotte Sweeney OBE

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Current vice-chair of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills External Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Panel, Charlotte Sweeney is also leading the City of London's Diversity Programme "The Power of Diversity". Charlotte has specialised in large-scale change programmes with a focus on diversity, inclusion, engagement and wellbeing for over 15 years.



Catherine Mayer

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Catherine Mayer is a journalist, commentator, co-founder and president of the Women's Equality Party and the best-selling author of three books. In a career spanning staff jobs at the Economist and more than a decade at TIME magazine, in senior positions including London Bureau Chief, Europe Editor and editor-at-large, she has spent more than three decades covering politics, business and the biggest events of our times, and has interviewed many world-famous figures.



Ben Cohen MBE

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Ben Cohen MBE is a former professional rugby player and motivational speaker who now spends much of his time as an LGBT activist, setting up the StandUp Foundation helping to combat bullying and homophobia. As a motivational speaker, his philosophy is one of creating a more inclusive, diverse environment in a number of sectors, to make better use of different backgrounds and experiences to benefit colleagues and customers alike.



Gina Battye

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Described as “Britain’s equivalent to Oprah Winfrey”, Gina Battye is one of the world’s hottest rising stars as the leading voice for LGBT self-help. Gina is an internationally sought-after teacher, LGBT coach, award-winning LGBT speaker, and is a highly regarded LGBT consultant, working with companies around the world on LGBT Inclusion Strategy.



Ben Smith

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Ben Smith has recently completed 401 marathons in 401 days all over the UK, equating to 10,506 miles, which is the distance from London to Sydney. The challenge raised in excess of £300,000 for two anti-bullying charities, Stonewall and Kidscape – organisations close to his heart, as he was bullied for 8 years in school for coming out as gay. Ben is one of the most inspirational and courageous speakers in the UK.



Kate Richardson-Walsh OBE

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Together with her partner and team-mate, Helen, the pair were the first same-sex couple to win Olympic Gold. Kate, also the most capped female player in her country's history, has captained the team since 2003 and was selected to be Team GB's flag bearer at the closing ceremony in Rio. In the process, Kate has helped to inspire a generation.



John Amaechi OBE

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John Amaechi OBE is a leading psychologist, organisational consultant and high-performance executive coach. He is a New York Times best-selling author and a former NBA basketball player. He is also a senior fellow at the Applied Centre for Emotional Literacy, and one of our most in-demand thought leaders. John uses his experiences as the first NBA player to come out as gay to teach businesses and students cutting edge diversity and inclusion training.



Hayley Barnard

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Hayley Barnard tackles issues surrounding unconscious bias and inclusiveness, ensuring that her ideas have real value for audiences' working lives. A straightforward but highly engaging speaker, Hayley uses her expertise to ensure inclusion is something that can be accessible to all organisations.



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson

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Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson is Britain's greatest Paralympic athlete and is acknowledged as one of the most gifted and courageous sportswomen of her generation. From overcoming the challenges of disability to reaching the peak of her game, maintaining performance levels and adapting to a new political career, she has a wealth of experience to share and does so with a lively sense of humour.



Belinda Parmar OBE

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Belinda Parmar OBE is the CEO of The Empathy Business and pioneer of the world's first empathy index, featured in the Harvard Business Review. Belinda can speak on panels about technology, business, changing workforces, culture transformation, diversity, empathy, entrepreneurship, measurement and analytics, and the role of women in society.



Vikie Shanks

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Vikie Shanks has seven children, six of which have autism, one with dyslexia and two with cerebral palsy. She is now a campaigner, author and speaker on dealing with and growing up with disabilities. Vikie demands a more inclusive environment when it comes to Autism, and is a highly motivated and determined leader in this sector.



Debra Searle MBE

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Debra survived 3½ months alone at sea when her husband had to be rescued during their adventure to row across the Atlantic. In 2015, Debra combined her two passions for adventure and gender equality, leading an all-female team on an expedition to the Arctic and, with her sister Hayley, she manages a diversity & inclusion consultancy helping businesses to include diversity & inclusion in their strategy.



Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller

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Eliza Manningham-Buller headed Britain's Security Service (MI5) from 2002 to 2007, leading the organisation through substantial change in the wake of 9/11 and the threat from Al-Qaeda. During her time at the helm, MI5 doubled in size, opened eight new offices and altered its approach to the professional development of staff with the establishment of a training academy. Eliza believes diversity creates a richer decision-making process and her talks cover gender equality.



Deeyah Khan

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Deeyah Khan is an Emmy and Peabody award-winning documentary film director and founder of Fuuse, a media and arts company that puts women, people from minorities, and third-culture kids at the heart of telling their own stories. She also founded Fuuse in 2010, an independent media and arts production company that tells the stories of those often silenced or ignored by the media.



Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE

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From child prodigy to MBE, Anne-Marie Imafidon is Head Stemette and co-founder of Stemettes, the award-winning social enterprise inspiring the next generation of females into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) roles via a series of prestigious events and opportunities.



Collette Dunkley

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Collette Dunkley is an industry expert on consumer behaviour, gender differences and how this knowledge can greatly enhance business performance where buying is concerned. She combines extensive global PR and Marketing experience with real insight into the behavioural differences between the sexes which lead them to communicate, shop, think, work and make decisions differently.



Kate Russell

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Kate currently appears regularly on BBC technology programme 'Click' and writes a monthly column for National Geographic Traveller magazine. She also speaks at conferences and digital strategy and policy meetings, as well as lecturing in schools and universities to inspire the next generation of technologists. Amongst other topics, Kate talks about diversity in the workplace and why more women should get into tech roles.



Martina Navratilova

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Martina Navratilova, tennis player extraordinaire, took women's tennis to a new level with her speed, determination and agility. She won the Wimbledon women's singles title a record nine times and has been described by many as "the greatest singles, doubles, and mixed doubles player who's ever lived". She is a global icon for lesbian and gay rights and is, as she describes it herself, a citizen of the world.

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Penny Mallory

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As a sought-after motivational speaker, Penny shares the ups and downs of her story from 'homeless waster' to 'rally champion', inspiring audiences to achieve greater things for themselves. Despite being told she was the 'wrong sex' and 'too old', she achieved her lifelong dream of being a rally driver. Her unique and inspirational story shows there is no limit to what you can achieve with will, determination, focus and commitment.



Matt Lindley

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Matt was one of the first openly gay pilots in the RAF, with his childhood dream of joining almost being crushed by the ban on gay personnel joining the forces. He describes how the RAF adapted its culture from one of hostility towards gay personnel to acceptance and support, using his experience to highlight the benefits of transformational leadership and positive cultural change to the well-being of employees and the productivity of an organisation.