

Right Worshipful Lord Mayor, Councillor Manjula Sood

PERSONAL PROFILE

The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Leicester, Cllr Manjula Sood has been an elected Councillor for over twelve years and she became the first Asian female Lord Mayor in the UK in May 2008 and was the first Asian female High Bailiff in the UK in April 2007. As a recent recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Leicester University, Cllr Sood has a vast amount of experience with helping in organising Local and General Elections.

Cllr Sood is currently a Director of the Leicester Council of Faiths which promotes a better understanding among faith communities and she has previously served as a Non Executive Director for the NHS, chairing numerous National NHS conferences such as the National Institute of Mental Health.

Cllr Sood is a professional, confident and energetic Councillor with highly developed people skills, analysis and project management expertise with a proven ability in team building and motivation. A natural team leader with a can do attitude, accompanied by a record of influencing decisions and driving results at all organisational levels.

Cllr Sood is I am very passionate about health issues with first hand experience of being a patient and constantly strive for a better health care infrastructure to ensure patients receive an optimum level of service

ELECTED COUNCILLOR POSITIONS

May 2003 to Present	Latimar Ward, Leicester East
May 1999 to April 2003	Abbey Ward, Leicester West
October 1996 to April 1999	Abbey Ward, Leicester West

AWARDS

September 2008	NRI Institute Award in Excellence for Asian Women
July 2008	Honorary PhD, Doctor of Laws, Leicester University
September 2006	Triangular Media Group Global Award for outstanding contribution to local politics
October 2005	Leicestershire and Rutland Women of the Year Award 2005, the first Asian women to receive the award
September 2004	Received the annual National Merit Award by the Prime Minister RH Tony Blair, September 2004 for contribution to the Labour Party, the first Asian women to do so
April 2002	Red Hot Curry's top 300 most influential Asian Women in the UK
November 2001	Honorary award by LABA (Leicestershire Asian Business Association) for assistance to small businesses

ACHIEVEMENTS

- UK's first Asian Female Lord Mayor in May 2008
- Served as the UK's first Asian Female High Bailiff for Leicester from May 2007
- Selected to carry The Queen's Jubilee Baton Relay during the Commonwealth games in 2002
- First female Asian councillor in Leicester, elected in 1996
- One of the first Asian female Primary school Teachers in Leicester from 1973 to 1990
- The pioneer in developing multicultural education within Leicestershire schools since 1973
- Successfully implemented Equal Opportunity Policies at the Leicester College of Further Education. As a Governor, she vigorously worked with the Principle, the Governing body and the Executive to make certain equal opportunity policies were in place and being applied
- Partaken in the last three International Women's Day, speaking to large audiences on the nuisances women face in society and the progress they have thus made since the turn of the last century
- A key member of Asian Refuge Shelter, assisting Asian women going through turmoil in their private life; Served as non executive for the Leicester NHS for more than 4 years

CURRENT POSITIONS HELD

- **Trustee** and an **Executive Director** for the **Leicester Council of Faiths**, which promotes a better understanding among faith communities
- **Vice Chair and Women's Officer** for Constituency Labour Party (CLP)
- A **key member of Asian Refuge Shelter**, assisting Asian women going through turmoil in their private life
- Member of the **Afro Caribbean Working Party**
- Member of the **Standard and Audit Committee** of Leicester City Council, safeguarding , the Audit Commission's Code of Conduct, which elected members of the council, and council officials must abide by
- **Member of Children and Young Persons** scrutiny committee
- **Trustee** for the **North Memorial Homes** in Leicester, a charity created for war veterans
- **Vice Chair and Public Relations officer** for a charity called **Fibromyalgia** for which the Minister of Health, Rt. Honourable Patricia Hewitt is the Patron
- Active member of the **Leicester Domestic Violence forum**
- Active member of the **Older People Forum** raising the political profile of older people, locally and nationally
- Member of the **Faith Regeneration Advisory Group**, actively engaged with developing a multi faith centre in Leicester
- Member on the **Inter Faith Network UK** since 1995
- **Chair** of numerous Mental Health regional conferences and member CSIP (Department of Health Care Services Improvement Partnership)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS HELD

- **Non Executive Director** at the Glenfield Hospital and was involved with advising Senior Management with Multicultural Faith and Multicultural issues the Trust faced
- **Trustee and an Executive Director** for the Leicester Council of faiths, which promotes a better understanding among faith communities
- Vice Chair of Equal Opportunities, Education and Social Services
- Chaired Leicester City Council's Health Commission
- One of the founding members and the Chair of NaariLets, successfully securing funding from the National Lottery, an organisation solely created with a vision to enhance the skills and experience of Ethnic Minority Women
- Represented Local Authority (Leicester Council) on CRE issues in the late 1990's, reporting to the Central CRE

INITIATIVES CHAMPIONED

- **Organiser** for liaising with the **Indian High Commission** to come to Leicester on a monthly basis to issue Visas
- **Chair of Naarilets**, an organisation solely created with a vision to enhance the skills and experience of ethnic minority women in Leicester encouraging them to be more immersed in commerce

COMMUNITY AND OTHER ACTIVITIES INVOLVED WITH

- **Mentors** numerous children and teenagers encouraging them to overcome anxieties and fears and to deal with their academia related issues
- Part of many general election and local election campaigns
- As a regular **fund raiser**, she managed to raise enough funds to donate a Fluid Warmer cabinet in the Accident and Emergency Unit at **Leicester Royal Infirmary** in 2001
- **Contributor** for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London
- **Contributor** for LOROS, a Hospice in Leicester
- **Sponsor's children in India** via Action Aid and Sai Organisation
- Vigorously involved with raising the awareness of Mental Health
- Awareness on drugs, smoking, AIDs and heart disease amongst young people
- **Member** of Good Values Group, promoting core Human values in the community
- Vigorously involved in Cultural Exchanges with faith centres
- Holds dedicated weekly advice surgeries for constituents

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

ACORN TRAVEL, 44 BELGRAVE ROAD, LEICESTER, LE4 5AS

January 1990 – October 1997

Position: Director

- Managed a successful travel agency on a prime and busy location in Leicester
- Responsible for managing over ten staff which, encompassed managing and guiding their career path, training needs and skills gap
- Engaged with other business in the area and city to form strategic partnerships and build alliances to enable innovative products such as a packaged holidays to be marketed for clients, as well as monitoring competitors to ensure a strategic advantage was maintained and a robust business model was in place

SPINNEY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, VENTNOR STREET, LEICESTER, LE5 5EZ

January 1973 – December 1989

Position: Scale 3 Primary School Teacher

- One of the first female Asian primary school teachers in Leicester in 1973
- During many teaching years, Cllr Sood was exposed to challenging times, witnessing the mass increase of immigrants coming to the UK who spoke very little English. She helped them to integrate in the community by educating them to fit into the local community as well as advising on local amenities and educational paths
- Cllr Sood's work was recognised and this was the main driving force behind her promotion to Scale 3 as a Head of Multi Cultural Education and Teaching English as a Second Language (ESOL)
- As head of Department of Multicultural, Education and ESO, she was responsible for providing and liaising services throughout not just the primary school but for local community centres
- Responsible for mentoring new teachers to assist them with their transition into teaching and familiarise them with the skills required for teaching

RESEARCH PROJECT

JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, MARYLAND, USA.

September 1967 – December 1970

Job Title: Senior Research Investigator

- As part of her Rural Health research into the high child mortality rates, women health and family planning in India, Cllr Sood was responsible for collating, gathering and interpreting results obtained to identify gaps pertaining to Health Inequalities in poor remote villages in India
- Her experience helped to assess why inequalities arose and to devise strategies to reduce the inequalities
- She managed six people to undertake the objectives of the research
- Cllr Sood's findings were published at the University to assist with agencies to use going forward with developing Rural Health policies

QUALIFICATIONS

<i>July 2008</i> Honorary PhD, Doctorate of Laws	Leicester University , Leicester, England
<i>January 1971 – January 1973</i> Postgraduate, Teaching Training	Leicester University , Leicester, England
<i>September 1965 – June 1967</i> MA with Distinction in Sociology	Punjab University , Chandigarh, India
<i>September 1962 - June 1965</i> BA (Hons) English, Sociology and Politics	Government College for Women , Ludhiana, India

INTERESTS

- Enjoy raising money for numerous charities including, Great Ormond Street Children Hospital, LOROS, Cancer Research, Action Aid, Save the Children, Oxfam and Fair Trade
- Enjoy travelling, watching films and reading, keeping up to date with current affairs
- Work with the Police regarding reducing Crime and Disorder within the local communities
- Closely work with the Housing, Education and Social Services department so core services are provided without delay
- Assist with helping and organising visa surgeries for the High Commission of India