

# My Working Day – Jillian Haslam – International Keynote Speaker



Story by  
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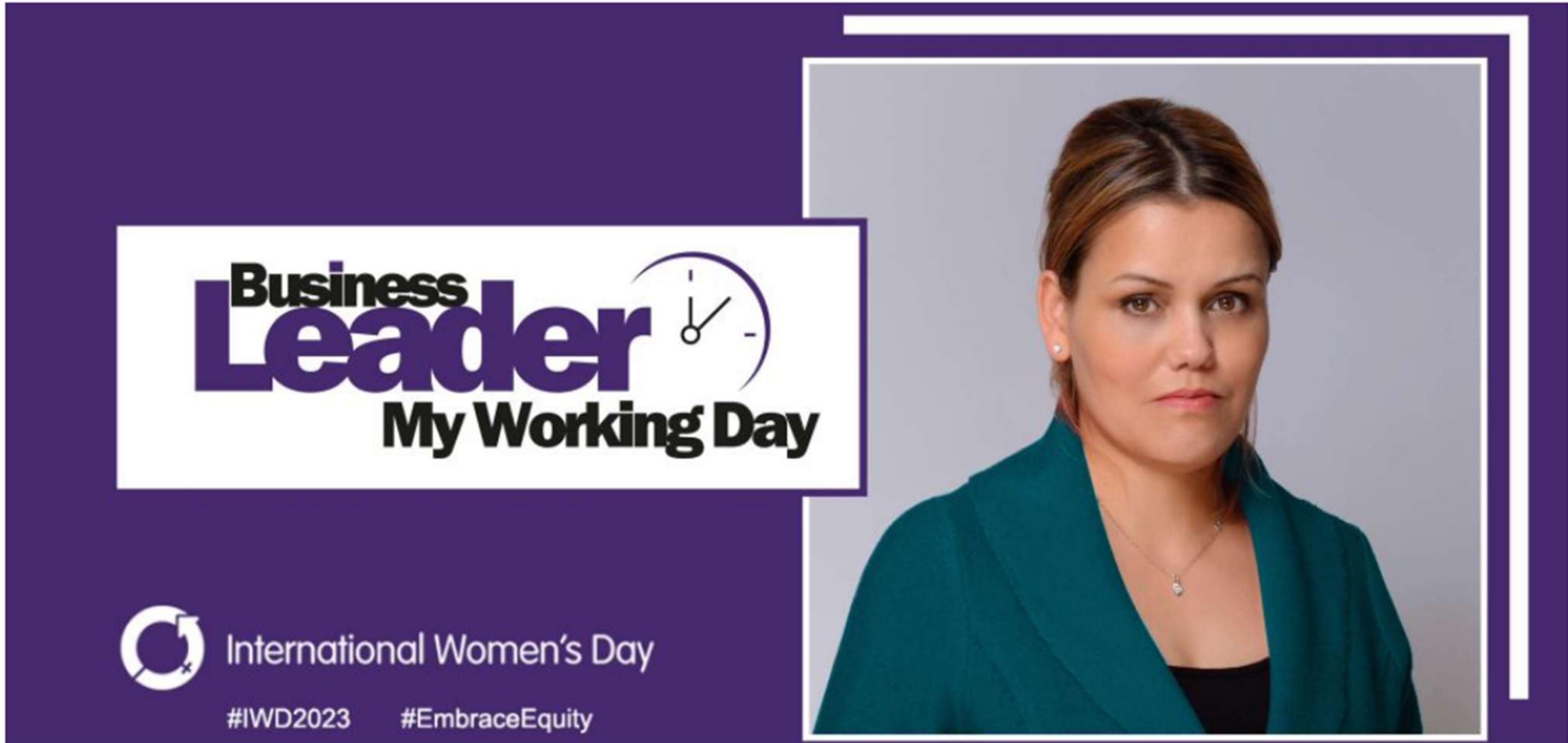
🕒 March 8, 2023

IWD 2023

MY WORKING DAY



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**As the leader of a company, you are there to set an example and to lead and inspire a team of individuals to achieve a series of business goals. But how do these business leaders go about their daily routine? We spoke to International Keynote Speaker, Jillian Haslam, about her working day.**

## What time do you usually wake up?

I tend to have a relaxed start at around 7 am each morning, as I prefer to complete my “To Do” list before going to bed each night. This sometimes keeps me up quite late!

## What do you have for breakfast?

I usually have granola with some fresh fruit and yoghurt but love to indulge in a full English breakfast on holiday!

## What is your mantra for your working day?

Embrace the challenge! One of my 9 tips referenced in my soon-to-be-published book, *An Irrepressible Mind*.

## As a business leader, is it hard to separate your business and personal life?

This can be quite a challenge, but I have found ways to seamlessly integrate the two. I do one-on-one mentoring and coaching sessions while I walk the dog and use my evenings to read/write when it is most quiet. I reserve my working hours for attending or delivering keynotes and presentations, and for virtual and in-person meetings. I like to listen to other keynotes, audiobooks and podcasts while cooking or at the gym.

## What advice would you give to aspiring female entrepreneurs?

Find your purpose – something that motivates you, excites you and fulfils your aspirations. Ask for help to validate your proposition and take notice of those who are qualified to give you genuine

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feedback, which will help you make balanced decisions.

To quote from the poem “Don’t Quit” by Edgar Albert Guest: “Stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit, it’s when things seem the worst that you mustn’t quit!”

## **Who is your business idol? Why?**

I have four:

- Oprah Winfrey: Her ability to put her challenging childhood behind her and achieve success. She is a huge inspiration to me and has influenced my own journey.
- Jack Welch, Prior CEO of General Electric: For his influence on making candour in the business world acceptable.
- Bill Gates: His astounding efforts to bring philanthropy into the mainstream of business.
- Azim Premji, founder and Chairman of Wipro India: Despite being a billionaire, he lives simply and has pledged 90% of his earnings to help the poor and other good causes.

## **What motivates you?**

Every day, media outlets inform us of the growing challenges centred around peace, people, and the planet. These ever-present conditions motivate me to step up and make a difference, and when I see others with the same mindset, it gives me hope that not all is lost.

## **How do you persevere through challenging times?**

They say a problem fades away when tackled with a positive mindset, and I make every effort to stay enthusiastic, even when I’m faced with the most difficult challenges. This is something that my team reference a lot, which gives them strength and resilience when met with a challenge.

## **What are the biggest challenges you’ve faced as a female entrepreneur?**

Luckily, both in the UK and to a large extent in India, female views and initiatives are championed and celebrated. I try to encourage other female entrepreneurs not to be discouraged by outdated views, and to push through any adversity they are met with!

## **What is the best piece of advice you have received?**

“The only thing you can change in any situation is your reaction to it.” As part of my NLP Master training, this was a key learning I took away. It has helped me turn many otherwise frustrating situations into opportunities to improve the outcome for myself.

## **Are you hopeful about the future of female entrepreneurship in the UK? Why?**

Yes. The growing awareness will soon create an equal playing field, but we need to be mindful that with the preoccupation of promoting equality for females, we don’t end up losing the values of other good ideas. Ultimately, it should be the offering and the product that determine success and not the sex of the entrepreneur behind it.