



# THE INDEPENDENT

## ON SUNDAY

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Female, Gifted and Asian:  
Record – Breakers

**A** boxer, a film producer and a prison governor are among the inspiring figures whose contribution to British life will be recognised at this year's Asian Women of Achievement Awards, which is sponsored by RBS. Today, the *IoS* unveils the shortlist of women contesting 10 categories in the annual event, which acknowledge success in areas including business, media and culture. For the first time this year, there are categories for sport and community, the latter aimed at organisations promoting ethnic diversity of their workforce.

"The shortlisting judges were truly amazed by the quality of the individual entering the awards this year, each with an inspiring story of determination, courage and resilience," said the author and entrepreneur Pinky Lilani, who founded the awards in 1999.

The winner will be announced in May. The British Red Cross chief executive, Sir Nicholas Young, heads the judging panel which includes the *IoS* business columnist Margareta Pagano.

### *Social and Humanitarian*

**Jillian Haslam**  
49, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire, founded Help Yourself Associates, which delivered personal development training. Born to British parents in Calcutta, she chronicled her experience of abuse and poverty in her book *Indian.English*. She moved to the UK in 2000 and works as an office manager for the Royal Bank of Scotland.



"When we were very poor in India and didn't even have a house to stay in, I soon realised education is everything and understanding the human mind... is really what changes a person and turns them from nothing to something. I opening the company with the primary purpose of ensuring that we educate, train and help people to know they need to help themselves."

#### ALSO SHORTLISTED

Rena Amin, head of medicine management, Greenwich PCT; Ummul Choudhury, trustee and director, Bidna Capoeira; Nisha Paul, trustee, Magic Bus UK; Sbiha Ruman Malik, founder and president, Sanghata Global.