



# COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY



A tribute to the memory of Renée Dangoor and Sir Naim Dangoor CBE  
who were dedicated to changing lives and building futures.



COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023  
**LEADING THE WAY**

We are delighted to announce the 2023 Commitment Awards. This initiative highlights the remarkable people, who utilise their skills, commitment and passion.

This well-received initiative acknowledges the impact of those dedicated to improving the quality of lives of others, which is evident in WIZO's far reaching commitment over the last 100 years.

Since we initiated these Awards, we have been inspired by the extraordinary people we have met. Their contribution has had impact in so many diverse areas of society, including education, environmental issues, and health and well-being.

The nominees and award winners reflect the heart of WIZO and its commitment to enable fulfilled individuals and contributing citizens.

The Awards are open to all, regardless of race, religion, gender or age and nominations may be for individuals, corporates or organisations thought to fit the criteria outlined in the categories indicated.

With the impact of Covid still reverberating through society, we are confident that we will encounter positive effects of opportunities borne of the pandemic.

We look forward to receiving your nominations and hope that through your network of colleagues, family and friends you will help us recognise the amazing work of worthy winners of this year's Commitment Awards.

Thank you.

Annabel Stelzer  
**Chair WIZOUK**

Maureen Fisher  
**CEO WIZOUK**



## COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

## ABOUT THE JUDGES

### CHAIR: CLAUDE LITNER

Claude Littner is a British-American business executive and the former chairman of Viglen, Powerleague and ASCO, and chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur.

He is also known for being Lord Sugar's long standing business associate and 'aide' on The Apprentice. Claude is visiting Professor at the University of West London and founder of the Claude Littner Business School.

### ANDREW BLOCH

Andrew Bloch is a Non-Executive Director at Frank, the PR agency he founded in 2000. In May 2020, Bloch stepped down from his day-to-day role as managing partner of the agency to become a non-executive director. Andrew now runs Andrew Bloch & Associates which is a boutique consultancy that helps brands, agencies and celebrities create new business relationships. He helps brands find the right agencies, help agencies meet and win news clients, and help link celebrities and influencers with brands.

Andrew is also a board advisor to a number of high growth tech start-ups. He is an advisor to leading M&A company and PCB Partners helping holding groups and management consultancies identify suitable acquisitions in the marketing services sector.

Andrew has acted as official spokesperson and PR advisor to Lord Sugar for over 20 years. He sits on the Business Launch Group panel for The Prince's Trust, is a founding mentor of the School of Communications Arts, a council member of Superbrands and a group advisor to Big Community Records, the label set up by Google chief executive officer Craig Fenton, to help give young black people from low socioeconomic backgrounds a platform to showcase their talents.

### SOPHIE EDEN

Sophie is the cofounder of Gordon & Eden, an executive search firm who specialise in finding world-class digital and technology leadership talent for some of the world's most innovative companies.

Their mission from the outset has been to connect the start-up, scale-up and corporate worlds. They give their clients access to a wide but selective pool of diverse talent and give candidates the opportunity to think about their career options in the broadest possible sense.

Gordon & Eden hire Chairs, NEDs, CEOs and leadership teams for technology and digital companies, as well as bringing executive digital talent into corporate businesses. Clients include Facebook, Asos, Newscorp, GSK and Stripe.

Sophie also has three children and is a strong advocate for diversity, is active in women in technology networks and mentors entrepreneurs regularly.



A tribute to the memory of Renée Dangoor and Sir Naim Dangoor CBE who were dedicated to changing lives and building futures.





## COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

## ABOUT THE JUDGES

### LINDA PLANT

Linda built her career from humble beginnings to become one of Britain's most recognisable business leaders and is now empowering others to successfully start and run their own companies with her Linda Plant Business Academy.

After leaving school at 16, Linda progressed from selling fashion on a Dewsbury market stall to launching an international knitwear brand, Honeysuckle, in the process becoming one of the first women to head a fashion company flotation on the London Stock Market. As a pioneering female business leader, Linda worked in a series of challenging executive roles, building, and running successful companies. Today, in addition to the Linda Plant Business Academy, she also runs property development and interior design businesses.

Linda is also one of the interviewers on BBC 1's The Apprentice, providing advice to Lord Sugar for over six series. Linda's passion for business and entrepreneurship has also been recognised with several business awards. She is also a panellist and judge, including top female entrepreneurs for HSBC's Panel of Forward Ladies and The Prince's Trust.

### JOHN WARE

John Ware is one of this country's leading investigative journalists.

For most of his 26-year BBC career he has worked for Panorama, and his specialist subjects have included agenda setting stories on the Northern Ireland conflict, Islamist extremism, and most recently anti-Semitism in the Labour party under Jeremy Corbyn.

John has written for a wide variety of mainstream publications, and his documentaries have been BAFTA nominated several times. He has also been awarded the James Cameron prize for his "work as a journalist that combined professional integrity and moral vision."

He is the author of an acclaimed biography on Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz doctor.

Today he is freelance and is also a trustee of WIZO whose 2015 media commitment award he won for journalism which the judges described as "courageous, independent yet broadly sympathetic to Jewish concerns".



## COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

## AWARDS

### COMMITMENT AWARDS CATEGORIES 2023/2024

#### **WIZO Major Achievement Award For An Inspiring Woman Leading The Way**

The Award honours a woman whose commitment within her chosen field or cause is inspiring. She will be recognised for her achievements and dedication to making a huge difference to the lives of others whether by direct impact or leading by example.

#### **Equality In The Workplace**

The Award recognises the achievements of an individual or corporate that has demonstrated a commitment to advancing gender equality and diversity in their place of work or business. The successful nominee will be a champion for change and may be leading the way developing a corporate culture of gender equality through internal policies and initiatives.

#### **Girls' And Women's Education**

The successful nominee may be an individual with a passion for the teaching profession, a mentor with a commitment to ensuring education for girls and women, or a centre for education that advocates education of girls and women encouraging participation and enabling opportunity.

#### **Women In Leadership**

An organisation, business or institution committed to creating opportunities to increase the number of women in leadership by investing in talented women and developing an appropriate environment suited to the needs of working women.

The successful nominee will inspire women to develop the confidence and excellence which will empower them to follow their growth journey and to create careers or lives they might not have thought possible.

#### **Inclusion And Diversity In The Media**

The Award highlights the important contribution of publications, multimedia and social media platforms in building an equal and inclusive society.

The successful nominee could be a journalist, photographer, blogger, social media creator or influencer or a media group who has made efforts to eliminate abuse, violence and inequality or highlighted gender issues.

#### **Innovation That Has Changed Women's Lives**

The Award recognises interesting and unique practices, ideas or products that promote, influence or have positively changed the landscape for women.

The successful nominee - an individual, organisation or business - may be a legal team that has accomplished a legal precedence, a tech entrepreneur who has developed a healthcare app for women or a financial institution that has created a product that benefits women. We are looking for ways of looking at things differently and showing support for women in new and intelligent ways.



A tribute to the memory of Renée Dangoor and Sir Naim Dangoor CBE who were dedicated to changing lives and building futures.





## COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

## CRITERIA

---

### WIZO MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR AN INSPIRING WOMAN LEADING THE WAY

The Award honours a woman whose commitment within her chosen field or cause is inspiring. She will be recognised for her achievements and dedication to making a huge difference to the lives of others whether by direct impact or leading by example.

WIZO was founded by the vision and commitment of inspiring women more than 100 years ago. Since its establishment, thousands of dedicated volunteers around the world have continued this legacy of inspiration, changing lives and benefitting society.

---

### EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

The Award recognises the achievements of an individual or corporate that has demonstrated a commitment to advancing gender equality and diversity in their place of work or business. The successful nominee will be a champion for change and may be leading the way developing a corporate culture of gender equality through internal policies and initiatives.

WIZO supports vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens regardless of race, religion, age or gender. The diversity of WIZO employees reflects this commitment.



A tribute to the memory of Renée Dangoor and Sir Naim Dangoor CBE who were dedicated to changing lives and building futures.





## COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

## CRITERIA

---

### GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION

The successful nominee may be an individual with a passion for the teaching profession, a mentor with a commitment to ensuring education for girls and women, or a centre for education that advocates education of girls and women encouraging participation and enabling opportunity.

From the very beginning, WIZO has been committed to enabling women to become independent and contributing citizens. From the original agricultural school established in 1923 to the impressive increase today in girls choosing to study maths, technology and science.

---

### WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

An organisation, business or institution committed to creating opportunities to increase the number of women in leadership by investing in talented women and developing an appropriate environment suited to the needs of working women.

The successful nominee has inspired women to develop the confidence and excellence which has empowered them to follow their growth journey and created careers or lives they might not have thought possible.

WIZO's leadership courses have helped to promote hundreds of women into leadership roles in the political, local government and commercial worlds.



A tribute to the memory of Renée Dangoor and Sir Naim Dangoor CBE who were dedicated to changing lives and building futures.





## COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

## CRITERIA

---

### INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN THE MEDIA

The Award highlights the important contribution of publications, multimedia and social media platforms in building an equal and inclusive society.

The successful nominee could be a journalist, photographer, blogger, social media creator, influencer or a media group who have made efforts to eliminate abuse, violence and inequality or highlighted gender issues.

An organisation caring for all citizens regardless of race, religion or gender, WIZO initiatives are inclusive, reflecting the rich and diverse cultures and skills that make up the tapestry of the society, fostering a culture of mutual respect and equality.

---

### INNOVATION THAT HAS CHANGED WOMEN'S LIVES

The Award recognises interesting and unique practices, ideas or products that promote, influence or have positively changed the landscape for women.

The successful nominee - an individual, organisation or business - may be a legal team that have accomplished a legal precedence, a tech entrepreneur who has developed a healthcare app for women or a financial institution that have created a product that benefits women. We are looking for ways of looking at things differently and showing support for women in new and intelligent ways.

As WIZO anticipates the needs of an ever-evolving society and the resulting issues, it is constantly developing programmes and tools to address the challenges that face women in their everyday lives, at home and in the workplace.





## COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

## NOMINATION FORM

This form should be completed and returned to Emma Yantin, WIZO, Charles House, 108-110 Finchley Road, London, NW3 5JJ or emailed to [emma@wizouk.org](mailto:emma@wizouk.org)

For additional copies of this form please call **020 7319 9169**. It can also be completed online at [www.wizouk.org](http://www.wizouk.org)

---

### NOMINATED BY:

Email:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Signature:

Date:

### I WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE:

Name:

Email:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

### FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENT AWARD:

Please tick as appropriate.

- WIZO Major Achievement Award for an Inspiring Woman Leading The Way
- Equality in the Workplace
- Girls' and Women's Education
- Women in Leadership
- Inclusion and Diversity in the Media
- Innovation That Has Changed Women's Lives



## COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

Please tell us why, in your own words (max 500 words) Attach an additional sheet if needed.

Should you wish to nominate more than one person then please print or request an additional form.

### **THE PRIZE:**

The winner in each category will receive a complimentary visit to Israel. The schedule will include;

- Visits to WIZO projects
  - Opportunities to meet Israeli counterparts
  - Cultural or business experiences and activities reflecting the range of Commitment Award categories
- 
- Entries must be received by mid-July 2023
  - Please note that successful finalists, accompanied by a guest and their nominator, will be hosted at a private reception in London in September 2023, date TBC
  - The Commitment Awards presentation event will take place in London in January 2024, date TBC

**To be sent a Commitment Awards pack, please contact [emma@wizouk.org](mailto:emma@wizouk.org) or go to: [www.wizouk.org/events](http://www.wizouk.org/events)**

### **Terms and conditions**

- Employees and trustees of WIZO are not eligible
- The prize is non-transferable
- Dates for award winners' trip to Israel will be finalised subject to availability
- The prize is non-exchangeable for cash
- The judges' decision is final.

Please tick this box to accept the terms and conditions

We would like to keep you informed about our fundraising activities. Please delete the relevant sections that you would prefer not to receive information on. Fundraising appeals / events / email updates about WIZO



# COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

## PRESS

6 NEWS

THEJCC.COM

PRIZE GROUP SEES A DIFFERENT SIDE OF ISRAEL

## Wizo award winners discover a striking panorama of activity

BY SANDY BASHTY

JOHN WARE is scribbling notes on his Wizo pad. The award-winning investigative journalist is in Israel with the four other winners of Wizo UK's annual Commitment Awards to visit the charity's flagship projects and other innovative schemes.

The former tunneller man won the £1,000 media award for his coverage of Israel, having reported extensively from Jerusalem to the West Bank and Gaza. But he's acutely aware that there is always more to learn – hence the careful notes-taking as participants tour welfare, educational, co-existence and environmental centres.

"I want to understand the place," he says. "Journalists are fundamentally driven by a curiosity about the way things actually are. Whatever our prejudices may be, or however we want something to turn out, that has to be subordinate to the truth."

At the Wehmann Institute of Science near Tel Aviv, he makes a studious effort to understand the technology behind a presentation by an Israeli company set on using CO2 emissions to generate liquid fuels. At the Peace Centre, he listens intently to an Israeli Arab employee who says Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, fails to engage people in her community because of its Jewish-centric lyrics. Over dinner one evening, he sits opposite a British-born IDF soldier who he quizzes on the army's ethical code as the treatment of Palestinians in detention.

He later describes the aspiring officer as "level-headed and grounded with a view of right and wrong." But above all, he Ware sees a side to Zionism that goes largely unreported. "Wizo seems to me an admirable organisation," he says. "Shortly a Zionist organisation, but it is about building bridges, giving welfare to the disadvantaged, whether they are Israeli Jew or Arab."

Notable: John Ware

Founded by three British women in 1920, Wizo, a UN-recognised NGO, today funds more than 800 social welfare and educational projects in Israel.

Working in partnership with the Israeli government and an army of volunteers, the charity

fulfills the aspirations of David Cameron's Big Society, whereby local communities are empowered to run social projects.

After a breakfast meeting with the winners to Tel Aviv, British Ambassador David Quarrey agrees that Wizo is "quite Big Society. Connections between people are very important at a time when some are calling for the isolation of Israel. The voluntary sector has an important role to play and it's a gesture of support, affection and warmth for Israel that people abroad want to help have."

However, Deborah Gendle – founder of Netshady for carers and winner of Wizo's award for improving lives through tech – argues that the government should not use the voluntary sector as a crutch. Talking about her 29-year-old son Zach, who has Asperger Syndrome, a genetic disorder causing severe disability, she says: "Caring for someone should not be left to the voluntary sector. It goes on for years and years and it gets harder and harder."

One of the most talked about schemes among the winners is in Afula, a north-eastern city surrounded by Arab villages. Last year, a squad of teaching arts' agents brought together

frustrated community tensions, which the Crisis Community Centre is striving to ease. There we are introduced to the Olive Tree project, encouraging Israeli Arab and Jewish women artists to paint images of olive trees – sym-

bol that resonates in both cultures.

Standing in front of a line of canvas, Mashhazeh, an Israeli Arab from a surrounding village, says: "The situation between us is not life is in Jerusalem. Here, we work together and shop for food together."

"While painting, we sit together as women, as mothers and talk about our children. My family are very proud of me." Martin Vegaña, 72, a Wizo winner for diversity in his Shalom Shalom dialogue group in Bristol, is clearly impressed.

The contrast between communities is showcased as we travel to a Bedouin village. The original plan was to visit Al Sababel Catering in Hura, which employs single Bedouin mothers. But a fatal car crash involving local youths had devastated the community.

Instead our guide – Ali Atunaa, a 20-year-old student at Ben-Gurion University – takes us to Wadi Aitit, a scheme promoting the integration of traditional Bedouin farming techniques with modern methods.

Answering questions on the bus before the day-long distraction of his community we see little to join the group. He says he has not been recognised by the Israeli government.

Although frustrated by the treatment of his community, still plans to join the army after his studies.

Ali Atunaa is recognised by Wizo in his award-winning Gabi Hizo paint images of olive trees – symbols that resonates in both cultures.

He says he has not been recognised by the Israeli government. Although frustrated by the treatment of his community, still plans to join the army after his studies.

served in the army "I think it's terrific nothing too," he says.

"You save Druzim, Bedouins, Russians and there's tremendous admiration for them."

"When I get photos of my boys in their uniforms and I see all of the different faces, it's fantastic. We, when you go out

to see my stuff, I all seem to fall apart. "I find it very upsetting when I hear that people who are fighting and could die for us aren't looked after or cared about in the same way my boys are. I find that an injustice. It's not my fault."

"When I heard Ali talk about Bedouins going to the army and coming back to find their homes destroyed, it made me feel awful because we should love the stranger in our midst."

Ariel Dineyko, co-founder of Arab-Jewish equality group Apeec Nispud, says he is working to advance the rights of Bedouins in the Negev – for example, friends served with demolition orders.

Wizo is collaborating with Apeec Nispud, offering a hotline for Arabic-

speaking parents struggling to deal with young children. It's an extension of the parent hotline run by Wizo.

For John Ware, the week's highlight is the charity's Mappogen for care centres in Sarona, built in 2009 and now used by its children. Although we hear many rhymes coming out of classrooms, we are acutely aware that the building is bullet and rocket proof.

During Operations Protective Edge, rockets landed outside the school and the teachers had to funnel the children down with bomb shelters decorated colourfully to make them appear less frightening.

"Things about having to go in to take to pick up prior to any of my children," says Wizo Ware, referring to his daughters, the award-winning singer Jessie Ware, before reflecting intently.

Across the road, we go to the police station, where rockets painted with messages of hate are displayed.

Wizo representatives emphasise repeatedly that the organisation's work is about securing the future of



Olive Tree project participant Mashhazeh with teacher Sheila Davor Cassid

Israel's people. But if Israel is billed as the start-up nation, it is now time for the government to rely less on charities?

Wizo UK trustee Jackie Elliot, who has been involved with the movement for more than 30 years,

When I heard about Bedouins going into the IDF and coming back to find their homes destroyed, it made me feel awful

to continue to exist. "Supporting Israel is part of my identity as a Jew. I have a responsibility to play my part to help secure better future for Israel by investing in its people."

It is no secret that Wizo is looking to meet more young people involved. So would the group's youngest member – 15-year-old Gaby Hizo – recognise the voluntary work with her school – do she think it's invaluable. Certain projects appeal more to me, such as the day care centres or the Rebecca project that I would definitely support any work Wizo does in the future. Claiming to be young people who have energy and a lot of people don't realise it's a problem.

At Wizo's Nir Ha'Emek School, children from tough backgrounds get opportunities to thrive. One 16-year-old considered a "child at risk" by the authorities now hopes to become a police officer.

Lack of this comes from a desire to protect others who have gone through similar experiences. "I'm not a police officer," he replies. "If I join the police, I get a good salary. I get a pension. I have a future."

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRIZE GROUP SEES A DIFFERENT SIDE OF ISRAEL

fulfills the aspirations of David Cameron's Big Society, whereby local communities are empowered to run social projects.

However, Deborah Gendle – founder of Netshady for carers and winner of Wizo's award for improving lives through tech – argues that the government should not use the voluntary sector as a crutch.

One of the most talked about schemes among the winners is in Afula, a north-eastern city surrounded by Arab villages. Last year, a squad of teaching arts' agents brought together

frustrated community tensions, which the Crisis Community Centre is striving to ease. There we are introduced to the Olive Tree project, encouraging Israeli Arab and Jewish women artists to paint images of olive trees – sym-

bol that resonates in both cultures.

Standing in front of a line of canvas, Mashhazeh, an Israeli Arab from a surrounding village, says: "The situation between us is not life is in Jerusalem. Here, we work together and shop for food together."

"While painting, we sit together as women, as mothers and talk about our children. My family are very proud of me." Martin Vegaña, 72, a Wizo winner for diversity in his Shalom Shalom dialogue group in Bristol, is clearly impressed.

The contrast between communities is showcased as we travel to a Bedouin village. The original plan was to visit Al Sababel Catering in Hura, which employs single Bedouin mothers. But a fatal car crash involving local youths had devastated the community.

Instead our guide – Ali Atunaa, a 20-year-old student at Ben-Gurion University – takes us to Wadi Aitit, a scheme promoting the integration of traditional Bedouin farming techniques with modern methods.

Answering questions on the bus before the day-long distraction of his community we see little to join the group. He says he has not been recognised by the Israeli government.

Although frustrated by the treatment of his community, still plans to join the army after his studies.

Ali Atunaa is recognised by Wizo in his award-winning Gabi Hizo paint images of olive trees – symbols that resonates in both cultures.

He says he has not been recognised by the Israeli government. Although frustrated by the treatment of his community, still plans to join the army after his studies.



A tribute to the memory of Renée Dangoor and Sir Naim Dangoor CBE who were dedicated to changing lives and building futures.



More WIZO news overleaf...



## 10 THINGS ABOUT WIZO

1. WIZO is the largest social welfare organisation in Israel working in partnership with the Israeli Government.
2. WIZO is one of Israel's largest employers supported by a network of professional staff and dedicated volunteers.
3. WIZO is the main agent for change for women, children and youth in Israel with over 250,000 members in 50 countries worldwide.
4. WIZO's 800 life-changing projects and programmes across Israel, equip individuals with the skills, tools and opportunities they need to succeed in life.
5. WIZO helps disadvantaged Israeli citizens regardless of age, race or religion, to become self sufficient and contributing members of society.
6. WIZO projects include day care centres, vocational training schools, shelters for women and children, legal bureaux, centres for girls at risk, foster homes, youth clubs, youth villages and boarding schools.
7. WIZO runs life-changing programmes that support single parent families, immigrants, vulnerable teenagers and the elderly. WIZO also provides dedicated hotlines responding to issues around parenting, legal problems and domestic violence for men and women.
8. WIZO runs day care centres throughout Israel, many of which specialise in programmes for children at risk aged six months to 3 years.
9. WIZO provides shelters for women suffering from domestic abuse, rebuilding their confidence and guiding them towards independence.
10. WIZO strengthens Israel by nurturing individuals at risk to become confident members of society.