

#daretobe

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion at Beaconsfield High School

UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS CONFERENCE

OVERCOMING TOXIC MASCULINITY TO ADVOCATE GENDER EQUALITY, SAFETY AND ALLYSHIP IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS



HIRA ALI



NIC PONSFORD



LEILA MAY LAWRENCE



AARON PANDHER



HARRY MOORE

Beaconsfield High School, in association with The Global Equality Collective, is proud to present a conference filled with necessary conversations, support and advice from a range of experts on peer on peer abuse policy and practice in secondary schools. This event is perfect for Sixth Form students and teachers who want to learn about creating a culture of gender advocacy for young adults and how to discuss peer on peer abuse, toxic masculinity and allying with women in confident ways within a school environment. It is also suitable for parents. Our expert speakers will explore creating safe spaces for students by learning to recognise toxic, normalised behaviours and peer on peer abuse; how to challenge and overcome them, so every student and member of staff feels confident and secure within and outside of the school community.

FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER: 930AM - 3PM

Online via Microsoft Teams

Ticket cost: £100 Early Bird Discount: £75

[Book here](#)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:



UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS CONFERENCE: MEET THE EXPERTS



10TH
DECEMBER

10th December 9:30am-3pm: Zoom



HIRA ALI

Author: *Her Way To The Top: A Guide to Smashing the Glass Ceiling* & *Her Allies: A Practical Toolkit to Help Men Lead Through Advocacy*

An inspiring leadership trainer and career coach and an acclaimed writer and speaker, Hira will open our conference and share ways in which we can ally with women and create a culture of gender advocacy from a young age.

Hira Ali has been committed to helping others achieve their inherent potential throughout her award-winning career. Hira is also a successful entrepreneur who has launched several businesses to support her mission. Her work has been featured in Forbes, The Telegraph, BBC, Harpers Bazaar, The Independent, CBC, Huff Post, and Entrepreneur, among hundreds of other print, radio and television outlets, and has earned Hira several prestigious honours and awards. She was recently appointed as The Senior Advisory Team member at The Benedictine University Illinois L.E.A.D.S leadership program for undergraduate women and has joined WLG'S Conversations with Men Advisory Council.

Hira was also included in a list by Diverseln of global D&I voices to follow on LinkedIn. In addition, she has been featured as a role model in the book *Girls Who Do You Want To Be* alongside phenomenal world changers. She is passionate about empowering women and ethnic minorities, closing the gender gap and advocating diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

In 2019, Hira released her first book entitled *Her Way To The Top: A Guide to Smashing the Glass Ceiling*, which received outstanding testimonials worldwide. Hira's second companion book—*Her Allies: A Practical Toolkit to Help Men Lead Through Advocacy*—invites men to join the gender equality movement and has received extensive media coverage and acclaim. For more on Hira, please visit www.advancingyourpotential.com. You can follow her on Twitter, LinkedIn, Insta or Facebook.

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NIC PONSFORD

Co-founder, Education, The Global Equality Collective App

Nic Ponsford FRSA is the Co-Founder and CEO, Education, of the GEC (Global Equality Collective), the first diversity, equality and inclusion app for schools and workplaces.

Previously an Advanced Skills Teacher, award-winning teacher and Harvard author ('TechnoTeaching'), she is now an educational and technology thought leader. Whilst studying for her Doctorate, Nic has recently been an EdTech50 Judge, headhunted for a central role with the DfE Edtech

Demonstrator Programme, a whitepaper research analyst for HE and a freelance Online Learning Designer.

Nic is also Director of Edtech UK, the national independent organisation, advisory forum and strategic body and is Editor of the digital publication, Edtech UK Magazine. She is also a frequent keynote speaker and panelist on closing gaps for the most vulnerable, #techforgood & #futureofwork, and all things diversity and inclusion in education.

Nic believes that technology is the great equaliser for our time.



AARON PANDHER

Business Management and Marketing Graduate, Digital Creative

Aaron is a digital creative and runs a blog called @thoughtsbyaaron, sharing his thoughts and perspective on mental health, wellbeing and pressing issues such as toxic masculinity, education and South Asian Culture. Aaron completed his dissertation exploring toxic masculinity in marketing and advertising. He has also appeared on several podcasts discussing, 'unmasking toxic masculinity', student wellbeing in schools and vulnerability as a young adult.

Aaron is passionate about dispelling common masculine stereotypes and encouraging young people to embrace their individual identities.

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LEILA MAY LAWRENCE

Human, Social and Political Sciences Student at the University of Cambridge

Leila is a final-year Human, Social and Political Sciences student at The University of Cambridge. She is currently a Talent Research and Development Intern at The Black British Business Awards primarily assisting on social media strategy and marketing. At university, Leila is actively involved with life on campus: performing in plays, producing 'The Festival of New Writing', holding the post of JCR Treasurer, and writing and editing at The Tab Cambridge in multiple sections. Most notably, she co-founded 'Your College Aunts': an agony aunt-style podcast and column where the problems of Cambridge students are deconstructed, and solutions offered on topics ranging from romance to workload and mental health.

Diagnosed with ADHD amid a pandemic (and a positive coronavirus test) she is passionate about destigmatising conversations surrounding mental health and neurodivergence, with this culminating in the creation of a Tab article/resource focused on mental health support for students during the pandemic.

In April 2021, Leila wrote an open letter to her former secondary school, on the issues of sexual harassment and misogyny in the classroom, which gained over 500 signatures and testimonies in two days, resulting in coverage in The Telegraph. Since its publication, she has participated in many discussions on the topics of misogyny and harassment in the classroom, featuring as a guest on the 'Schools Should Be Podcast.' Leila continues to be passionate about the cause and has started to collaborate with other young women who wrote similar letters to push for deeper change.

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HARRY MOORE

MA Psychology, founder of Fitness YouTube Channel, Team for Never Lean

Harry, a Psychology Postgraduate, has worked within the fitness industry for nearly ten years. His passion for fitness stemmed from mental health struggles that he battled with throughout his teenage years, primarily surrounding body image, depression, and anxiety. Although these struggles encouraged him to embark on his own fitness journey, they also contributed to his interest in the realm of Psychology but more specifically, mental health. It is for these reasons that Harry has shifted a lot of his attention to bridging the gap between physical and emotional health, through his YouTube channel, Team For Never Lean (TFNL), which has amassed a YouTube following of over 20 000 subscribers.

TFNL was initially established as a means of debunking toxic fitness myths that too many have fallen victim to. It has since developed into a community, a safe space, for like-minded individuals actively encouraging each other to become the best version of themselves whilst actively trying to limit social comparisons. The world has raised many of us to shy away from discussing sensitive subjects due to the stigma surrounding mental health, so Harry aims to break down these walls and encourage such conversations to promote positive emotional and mental health, despite how difficult that may be. Harry's extensive experiences with social media include the good, the bad and the ugly, which many of the younger generation now see but are not always equipped to manage. Through his work, Harry also aims to support young people with the resilience and teaching necessary to navigate the online world.

Harry supports his clients with Performance Coaching (Psychological and physical), Crisis volunteering, and is soon to become a counsellor.

UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS CONFERENCE: THE AGENDA



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- **930am Hira Ali:** what is gender advocacy and how can we tackle toxic behaviours towards women at school?
- Break
- **1045am Aaron, Leila and Harry:** the lived experiences of toxic masculinity, abusive behaviour in schools and practical ways to overcome toxic and negative behaviours from a students' perspective
- Lunch
- **1230pm Nic Ponsford:** what can schools do on the ground to keep young women safe and promote healthy relationships between their students?
- Break
- **130pm The Terrence Higgins Trust:** practical tips on how teachers can support students in the classroom with gender diversity (tbc)
- **215pm a Headteacher's perspective:** solutions and strategies to overcome toxic behaviours and promote safety in schools

Click [here](#) to book now or contact event lead,
Zahara Chowdhury, for more information:
chowdh-z@beaconsfieldhigh.bucks.sch.uk