

# Inspiring women

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Embargoed until 1am Friday 11 July 2014**

### **The ‘Women who make London’**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> July the **Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE and Miriam González Durántez, Partner at Dechert LLP and wife of the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg**, will attend a unique careers fair featuring women doing a wide range of jobs at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School for girls in Islington.

The aim is to **show the huge range of jobs that women do around the City of London from a Cannon to a banker, from a chef to an architect**. This is part of the national Inspiring Women campaign.

**The 106 women talking with girls include:** the Head of HMRC, a choreographer, a Buckingham Palace Guide, a barrister, a yoga teacher, a theatre director, a structural engineer, a doctor, a professor and a poet.

The Inspiring Women Campaign will see 15,000 women from a wide range of occupations going into state schools over the next year, talking to 250,000 young women. 80% of state secondary schools in England have signed up as a means of finding volunteers to talk with pupils about their careers.

The following women who are taking part say.....

**Lord Mayor Fiona Woolf:** “Today’s event is about demonstrating to girls that they can achieve anything – there are no barriers to talent. We want to empower young women to seize exciting opportunities and explore the wide range of career paths in the City. There is a clear business case for attracting more female talent, and for creating pathways for women to progress to the top jobs. Getting lucky and saying ‘yes’ was an important part of my own professional journey and, as only the second female Lord Mayor in 800 years, I am committed to supporting women to join the next generation of City leaders.”

**Miriam González Durántez, Partner at Dechert LLP:** “People all around the world look at the City of London with envy. This extraordinary magnet for talent provides a wide variety of job opportunities for girls, especially for those who aim to reach high. The more than one hundred volunteers who have come today to this event are a fantastic example of the vast range of jobs that girls can aspire to.”

**Jo Dibb, Headteacher at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School:** “Events such as this are crucial in helping to broaden students’ horizons and to feed their dreams and aspirations.”

**Jo Swinson, Minister for Women and Equalities:** “It’s fantastic that women from such a range of careers are sharing their experience with the next generation. I’m delighted to be taking part and hope to see some of the girls on the benches at Parliament in a few years.”

The *Inspiring Women* campaign is supported by Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Who is behind *Inspiring the Future: Inspiring Women***

The Education and Employers Taskforce was launched as a small independent charity in October 2009, and has 12 staff. Its aim is to ensure that every school and college has effective partnerships with employers which provide young people with the inspiration, motivation, knowledge, skills and opportunities they need to help them achieve their potential and so secure our national prosperity. The Taskforce's Partnership Board comprises the leaders of the main representative organisations from education and employment. For details: [www.educationandemployers.org](http://www.educationandemployers.org)  
The Education and Employers Taskforce runs the free, national *Inspiring the Future*

### **Background to the campaign**

In October, Inspiring the Future launched the national **Inspiring Women Campaign** at an event hosted by Miriam González Durántez, Partner at Dechert with 100 girls from 11 state secondary schools in London talking about careers with 10 high profile women - including Mumsnet founder Carrie Longton, broadcaster Fiona Bruce and EasyJet CEO Carolyn McCall. Please see [www.inspiringwomenscampaign.org](http://www.inspiringwomenscampaign.org) for more details about the campaign and our blog <http://itfinspiringwomen.wordpress.com/>