

# Councillor Manjula Sood, MBE, MA, LLD (Hon)

## PERSONAL PROFILE

Cllr Manjula Sood has been an elected Councillor for almost fourteen years. She became the first Asian female Lord Mayor in the UK in May 2008 and was also the first Asian female High Bailiff in the UK in April 2007. At present she is serving as the Deputy Lord Mayor for Leicester. Cllr Sood has been involved in numerous charitable and community work both nationally and locally for almost four decades. Her tireless and selfless efforts were recognised with her recent honour receiving an MBE and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Leicester University.

Cllr Sood is currently a Director of the Leicester Council of Faiths which promotes a better understanding among faith communities and she has previously served as a Non Executive Director for the NHS, chairing numerous National NHS conferences such as the National Institute of Mental Health. Cllr Sood is very passionate about health issues with first hand experience of being a patient and constantly striving for better health care infrastructure to ensure patients receive an optimum level of service

Cllr Sood is a professional, confident and energetic Councillor with highly developed people skills, analysis and project management expertise with a proven ability in team building and motivation. A natural team leader with a can do attitude, accompanied by a record of influencing decisions and driving results at all organisational levels. Cllr Sood has a vast amount of experience with helping in organising Local and General Elections.

## ELECTED COUNCIL SEATS

<b>May 2003 to Present</b>	Latimer Ward, Leicester East
<b>May 1999 to April 2003</b>	Abbey Ward, Leicester West
<b>October 1996 to April 1999</b>	Abbey Ward, Leicester West

## AWARDS and HONOURS

June 2009 <b>MBE</b>	For Community Services in Leicester
September 2008 <b>NRI Institute Award in Excellence</b>	Services to Politics and the Community
July 2008 <b>Doctor of Laws (LLD)</b>	Honorary PhD, Doctor of Laws, Leicester University for community work in Leicester
September 2006 <b>Triangular Media Group Global Award</b>	Outstanding contribution to local politics
October 2005 <b>Leicestershire and Rutland Women of the Year Award</b>	Outstanding services to Leicester. The first Asian women to receive the award
September 2004 <b>Labour Party National Merit Award</b>	Presented by former Prime Minister, RH Tony Blair, for contribution to the Labour Party, the first Asian women to receive the accolade
April 2002 <b>Red Hot Curry's Influential Women</b>	Red Hot Curry's top 300 most influential Asian Women in the UK
November 2001 <b>LABA (Leicester Asian Business Association)</b>	Honorary award by LABA (Leicester Asian Business Association) for assistance to small businesses

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- UK's first Asian female Lord Mayor in May 2008 for Leicester City
- UK's first Asian Deputy female Lord Mayor in May 2009 for Leicester City
- UK's first Asian female High Bailiff for Leicester from May 2007
- Member of the Deputy Prime Minister's BAME Task Force
- Selected to carry The Queen's Jubilee Baton Relay during the Commonwealth games in 2002
- First female Asian councillor in Leicester, elected in 1996
- First female Asian to hold a Cabinet position for Leicester City Council
- One of the first Asian female Primary school Teacher in Leicester from 1973 to 1990
- A pioneer in developing multicultural education within Leicestershire schools since 1973
- Successfully implemented Equal Opportunity Policies at Leicester College of Further Education. As a Governor, she vigorously worked with the Principle, the Governing body and the Executive to ensure equal opportunity policies were in place and being applied

- Partaken in the last three International Women's Day, speaking to large audiences on the nuisances women face in society and the progress they have thus made since the turn of the last century
- A key member of Asian Refuge Shelter, assisting Asian women going through turmoil in their private life
- Served as non executive for the Leicester NHS for more than 4 years

#### CURRENT POSITIONS HELD

- Community Patron for Special Olympics in Leicester
- Member of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Cross Party Task Force set up by the Leader of the House of Commons
- Governor of Leicester College
- Governor of Abbey Primary School and Spinney Hill Primary School in Leicester
- Patron for Hope against Cancer charity
- Trustee and Executive Director for the Leicester Council of Faiths, which promotes a better understanding among faith communities
- Vice Chair and Women's Officer for Constituency Labour Party (CLP)
- Trustee for the North Memorial Homes in Leicester, a charity created for war veterans
- Vice Chair, Public Relations officer and Honorary Member for Fibromyalgia, a charity for which the former Minister of Health, Rt. Honourable Patricia Hewitt is the Patron
- Active member of the Leicester Domestic Violence forum
- Member on the Inter Faith Network UK since 1995
- Patron of CLASP, a charity for careers

#### PREVIOUS POSITIONS HELD

- Leicester City Council Cabinet Lead for Health and Wellbeing
- Non Executive Director at the Glenfield Hospital, involved with advising Senior Management with Multicultural Faith and Multicultural issues the Trust faced
- Member of the Standard and Audit Committee of Leicester City Council, safeguarding the Audit Commission's Code of Conduct
- Member of Children and Young Persons scrutiny committee
- Member of the Older People Forum raising the political profile of older people, locally and nationally
- Member of the Faith Regeneration Advisory Group, engaged with developing a multi faith centre in Leicester
- Chair of numerous Mental Health regional conferences and member CSIPs (Department of Health Care Services Improvement Partnership)
- Member of Asian Refuge Shelter, assisting Asian women going through turmoil in their private life
- Member of the Afro Caribbean Working Party
- Vice Chair of Equal Opportunities, Education and Social Services
- Chair of Leicester City Council's Health Commission
- One of the founding members and the Chair of NaariLets, an organisation solely created with a vision to enhance the skills and experience of Ethnic Minority Women, successfully securing funding from the National Lottery
- Represented Local Authority (Leicester Council) on CRE issues in the late 1990's, reporting to the Central CRE

#### INITIATIVES CHAMPIONED

- **Chair of Naarilets**, an organisation solely created with a vision to enhance the skills and experience of ethnic minority women in Leicester encouraging them to be more immersed in commerce
- Helping Victims of Domestic Violence and Mentoring Children from families with mental illness
- Assisting Elderly in an Advocacy role
- Promoting Businesses to adopt Fair Trade policies and products
- Raising awareness about high profile and life threatening health issues

#### COMMUNITY AND OTHER ACTIVITIES INVOLVED WITH

- Mentor numerous children and teenagers encouraging them to overcome anxieties and fears and to deal with their academia related issues
- Part of many general election and local election campaigns
- A regular fund raiser, raising enough funds to donate a Fluid Warmer cabinet in the Accident and Emergency Unit at Leicester Royal Infirmary in 2001
- Contributor for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London
- Contributor for LOROS, a Hospice in Leicester
- Sponsor of children in India via Action Aid and Sai Organisation
- Vigorously involved with raising the awareness of Mental Health

- Awareness on drugs, smoking, AIDs and heart disease amongst young people
- Member of Good Values Group, promoting core Human values in the community
- Vigorously involved in Cultural Exchanges with faith centres
- Holds dedicated weekly advice surgeries for constituents

#### PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

**ACORN TRAVEL, 44 BELGRAVE ROAD, LEICESTER, LE4 5AS**

**January 1990 – October 1997**

**Position: Director**

- Managed a successful travel agency on a prime and busy location in Leicester
- Responsible for managing over ten staff which, encompassed managing and guiding their career path, training needs and ensuring customer excellence was achieved
- Engaged with other business in the area and city to form strategic partnerships and build alliances to enable innovative products such as a packaged holiday, as well as monitoring competitors to ensure a strategic advantage was maintained and a robust business model was in place

**SPINNEY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, VENTNOR STREET, LEICESTER, LE5 5EZ**

**January 1973 – December 1989**

**Position: Scale 3 Primary School Teacher**

- One of the first female Asian primary school teachers in Leicester in 1973
- During many teaching years, Cllr Sood was exposed to challenging times, witnessing the mass increase of immigrants coming to the UK who spoke very little English. She helped them to integrate in the community by educating them to fit into the local community as well as advising on local amenities and education paths
- Cllr Sood's work was recognised and this was the main driving force behind her promotion to Scale 3 as a Head of Multi Cultural Education and Teaching English as a Second Language (ESOL)
- As head of Department of Multicultural, Education and ESO, she was responsible for providing and liaising services throughout not just the primary school but for local community centres
- Responsible for mentoring new teachers to assist them with their transition into teaching and familiarise them with the skills required for teaching

#### RESEARCH PROJECT

**JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, MARYLAND, USA.**

**September 1967 – December 1970**

**Job Title: Senior Research Investigator**

- As part of her Rural Health research into the high child mortality rates, women health and family planning in India, Cllr Sood was responsible for collating, gathering and interpreting results obtained to identify gaps pertaining to Health Inequalities in poor remote villages in India
- Her experience helped to assess why inequalities arose and to devise strategies to reduce the inequalities
- She managed six people to undertake the objectives of the research
- Cllr Sood's findings were published at the University to assist with agencies to use going forward with developing Rural Health policies

#### QUALIFICATIONS

<i>July 2008</i> <b>Honorary Doctorate of Laws (LLD)</b>	<b>Leicester University</b> , Leicester, England
<i>January 1971 – January 1973</i> <b>Postgraduate, Teaching Training</b>	<b>Leicester University</b> , Leicester, England
<i>September 1965 – June 1967</i> <b>MA with Distinction</b> in Sociology	<b>Punjab University</b> , Chandigarh, India
<i>September 1962 - June 1965</i> <b>BA (Hons)</b> English, Sociology and Politics	<b>Government College for Women</b> , Ludhiana, India

#### INTERESTS

- Enjoy raising money for numerous charities including, Great Ormond Street Children Hospital, LOROS, Cancer Research, Action Aid, Save the Children, Oxfam and Fair Trade
- Enjoy travelling, watching films and reading, keeping up to date with current affairs
- Work with the Police regarding reducing Crime and Disorder within the local communities

- Closely work with the Housing, Education and Social Services department so core services are provided without delay
- Assist with helping and organising visa surgeries for the High Commission of India

#### REFERENCES

Available upon request