



PRESS RELEASE

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Women on Boards

International Women's Day:

First year where a third of non-executive directors on FTSE 100 boards are female marked with second Women on Boards Bursary Programme.

Women on Boards is celebrating 2020 being the first year where a third of non-executive directors on FTSE 100 boards are female with the launch of their second Bursary Programme.

Female non-executive directors now make up 33% on FTSE 100 boards and is the result of huge concerted effort over a decade by leaders in all sectors. Women on Boards has played its part by offering information, advice and encouragement to women with boardroom potential.

Of course there is more to do: progress towards mixed gender boards in firms outside the FTSE 350 is glacial and over a third of AIM 50 boards remain all-male.

Women on Boards are committed to ensuring that the only barrier to the boardroom is talent and this is why this International Women's Day, they are launching their second Bursary Programme, which will give five women with board potential the support they need to realise their ambitions.

Sponsored by Boudicca Proxy Consultants, part of Equiniti Group plc, the Women on Boards Bursary programme opens their 'boardroom journey' of events, training and support to women who would not otherwise be able to afford it.

Fiona Hathorn, Women on Boards CEO and co-founder, said:

"Women have a huge amount to contribute. Whatever your career stage, professional or life experience, there is a board which will value your input. Women on Boards can help you find it and put yourself forward with confidence."

"We all need a little encouragement from time to time. If you know a woman with board potential, please do suggest she applies. And, if you are eligible, encourage yourself to apply! What have you got to lose?"

Sheryl Cuisia, Managing Director, Boudicca Proxy, said:

"We're delighted to support the Women on Boards bursary. Diversity of thought and opinion around the Boardroom lead to better decision-making, and this initiative will only bring further positive change in helping more women make the most of their business acumen and professional skills. Equiniti has a strong pedigree of appointing women to the Board and senior positions of leadership within the Company, and we're proud to be part of a programme that aspires to support women in contributing their talents at NED level."



The Women on Boards second bursary programme is open for applications from 8th March until 31 March 2020. Full details available:

<https://www.womenonboards.net/en-gb/about-us/bursary-programme>

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Sources:

- Hampton Alexander Review's latest report confirmed the 33% target for female non-executive directors in FTSE 100 firms has been met.
- Research into board composition in AIM 50 conducted by Company Matters, 'Board diversity in AIM and FTSE Small Cap companies' (2020)

About Women on Boards:

Women on Boards exists to help members make the right connections and career choices to take on a board role as a non-executive director, trustee or governor, or to get to the top within their company.

They are breaking down the barriers to entry to the boardroom and building the pipeline of board-ready women.

Women on Boards operates from the principle that as talent and ambition are equally distributed between men and women, organisations in all sectors need to work towards gender balance at board and leadership level. They also know that diversity leads to more innovation, a better quality of decision-making and correlates with better business results overall (see [Voice for Women](#) for some key studies in this area).

Women on Boards in the UK (WOB UK) is a part of a global brand that was first established in Australia. It was co-founded in 2012 by Fiona Hathorn, Rowena Ironside and Rachel Tranter who brought different but complementary skills and experience to establish Women on Boards as a highly influential network in the UK.

Women on Boards work with all sectors and all sizes of organisation, making regular speeches at key networks and conferences. They are also a regular commentator in the media on diversity and governance issues.

For more information visit www.womenonboards.net