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FT's top feminist men help women succeed in business and beyond

LILY RAE

Antony Jenkins

The former chief executive of Barclays set the bank a 26 per cent target for female senior leadership by 2018. Barclays currently employs more than 3,000 members of the LGBT community, and was the headline sponsor for London Pride 2014. Under Mr Jenkins, Barclays introduced financial inclusion programs, which pledge to increase access to credit, banking, and business ownership for women.

Vivek Wadhwa

Author of *Innovating Women: the Changing Face of Technology,* Wadhwa has been outspoken in his support of female tech entrepreneurship and has called for venture capitalists to release their gender data, exposing bias in the financing of technology start ups. Mr Wadhwa made news when he criticised Twitter for its all-male board of directors. The social media group has since employed Marjorie Scardino. In 2014, Mr Wadhwa came under fire from several critics, who argued that he had become so ubiquitous in his commentary about sexism in technology that he was drowning out female critics.

Sir Richard Branson

Sir Richard is a longtime champion of women in business. Almost 40 per cent of upper management positions at Virgin hotels are held by women, and Virgin now gives male employees the option to take up to a year of paid paternity leave. He has also publicly backed Ring the Bell, a campaign to end male violence against women.

Sir Win Bischoff

The chairman of the Financial Reporting Council is also a member of the 30% Club, which aims to increase the number of women on FTSE 100 boards to 30 per cent by the end of 2017. He is credited with helping get the initiative off the ground and, together with BAE chairman Sir Roger Carr, working to engage the leaders of Britain's biggest companies.

Jean-Pascal Tricoire

The chief executive of Schneider Electric and a public backer of the HeForShe initiative, has pushed for more women in senior roles and implemented a salary equity programme — aiming to expand this process around the world by 2017. This year, Mr Tricoire received the Women's Empowerment Principles' leadership award for advancing women's equality.

Joseph Keefe

Joseph Keefe is president and chief executive of Pax World Management, as well as chairman of Women Thrive Worldwide, which advocates for women's rights. Mr Keefe is an outspoken critic of gender inequality, describing it as "the greatest economic issue of our time, because there is so much value locked up inside these outdated, dim-witted patriarchal systems we allow to continue." Pax also manages a fund that prioritises investment in female-led businesses.

James Turley

James Turley, a former chairman and chief executive of EY, the accounting and consulting company, chairs of the board at Catalyst, an organisation that works to build inclusive workplaces and expand opportunities for women and business.

Josh Levs

Josh Levs is a broadcaster and journalist who made headlines when he sued CNN, his employer, for not giving him enough paternity leave. Since then, he has written All In: How Our WorkFirst Culture Fails Dads, Families, And Businesses — And How We Can Fix It Together.

Matt Groening

Creator of The Simpsons, the longest running animated show in the US. Mr Groening is responsible for the birth of such feminist icons as Lisa Simpson and Leela (Futurama). Spanning more than 400 episodes, The Simpsons continues to challenge issues of racism and sexism — even referencing Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex in* one episode — while maintaining mainstream appeal.

Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson

Iceland's prime minister is a champion of the UN's HeForShe campaign. He plans to achieve gender parity in Iceland's media by 2020 and close the country's gender pay gap by 2022.

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