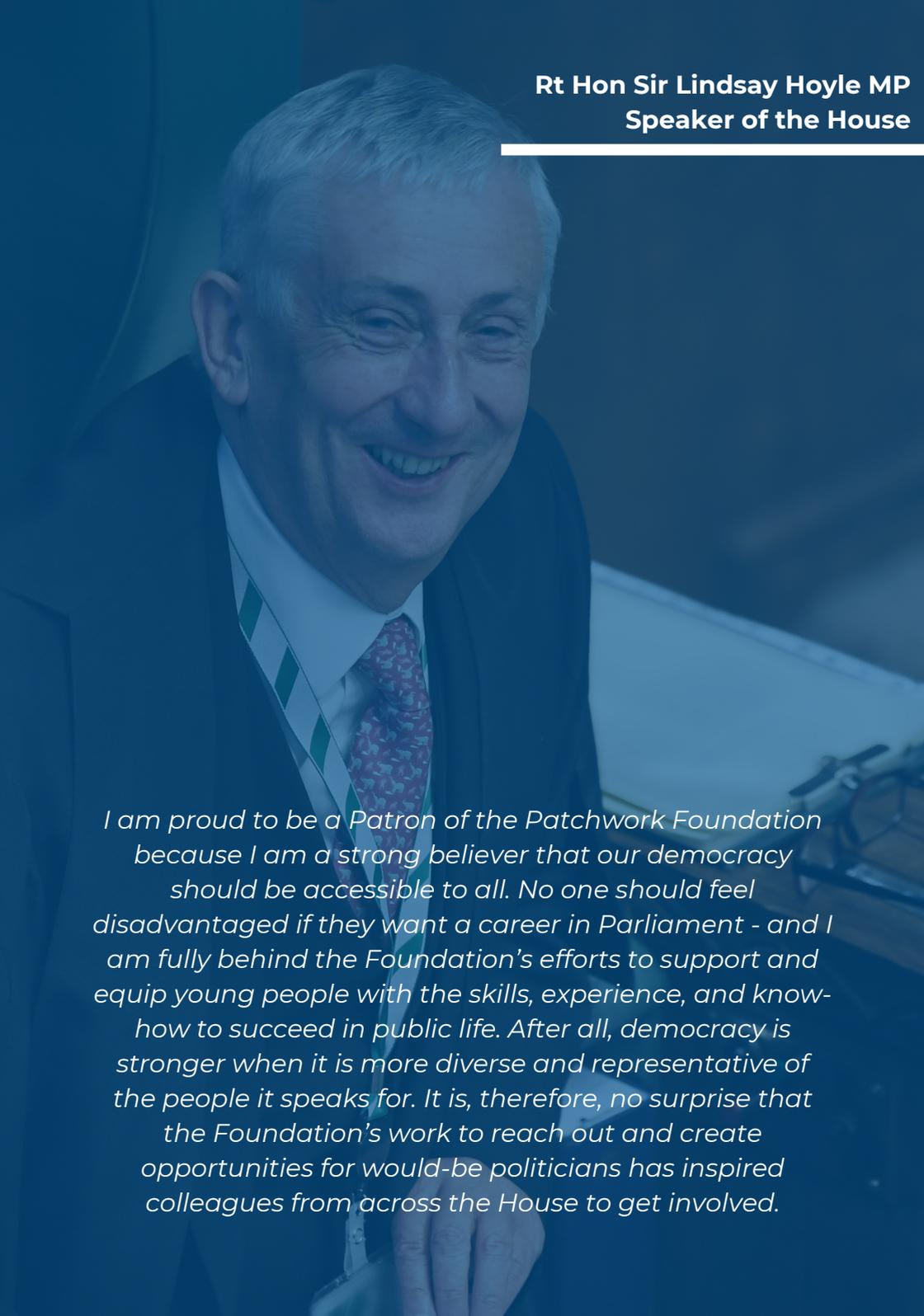




patchwork
foundation



Annual Review 2020

A portrait of Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. The image has a blue tint. In the top right corner, there is a white horizontal line.

Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
Speaker of the House

I am proud to be a Patron of the Patchwork Foundation because I am a strong believer that our democracy should be accessible to all. No one should feel disadvantaged if they want a career in Parliament - and I am fully behind the Foundation's efforts to support and equip young people with the skills, experience, and know-how to succeed in public life. After all, democracy is stronger when it is more diverse and representative of the people it speaks for. It is, therefore, no surprise that the Foundation's work to reach out and create opportunities for would-be politicians has inspired colleagues from across the House to get involved.

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Message from the Chair of Trustees

2020 has been a great litmus test for Patchwork. At a time of great turbulence, the Foundation, by virtue of being agile and nimble, was able to adapt and ensure that it continued to reach out to young adults across the country, keep everyone connected whilst striving to achieve our unique mission and purpose.

From holding Masterclasses over Zoom, an entirely virtual MP of the Year Awards ceremony and online Party Conferences; Patchwork's 2020 has been unprecedented - but no less impactful.

For all its difficulties, 2020 has also allowed us to re-group, to innovate, and to reimagine what the future of the organisation might look like. Most importantly, Patchwork has still managed to make a difference in the lives of young people from underrepresented communities. In fact, it's perhaps during years like 2020, with all its social strife, inequality, and hardship, that organisations like the Patchwork Foundation are needed the most.

We, in turn, couldn't have done it without our supporters. The entire Trustee Board are extremely grateful to all of our supporters, advisers, partners, and stakeholders for all your support in one of the most challenging years in Patchwork's history.

Farmida Bi CBE



Message from the CEO

2020 was a difficult year for everyone. Here at Patchwork, as with so many other organisations, we had to adapt to an online space to not only make sure our programmes could go ahead, but to also provide support for our young people as they navigated the turbulence in the midst of some of their most formative years.

While this was without a doubt a challenge, we discovered a flexibility that allowed us to see how we could do things differently – a larger number of sessions focusing on skills and training; the greater reach and accessibility of online platforms; the possibility for deeper and more meaningful conversations; the re-centring of our young people and their welfare.



The result was that as the year came to an end, we were actually in a stronger position than when the year started, and excited about how we could take our learnings from 2020 into 2021. More than anything else, the young people we have worked with this year have inspired us with their resilience, commitment and compassion. In a year when inequality and social tension have been so stark, Patchworkers give me hope for a better future.

Imran Sanullah MBE



About Us

Founded in 2011, the Patchwork Foundation is a UK-based charity committed to strengthening democracy and supporting the development of young people. We are focused on communities and individuals that are traditionally underrepresented, and seek to engage young people from these communities.

The Patchwork Foundation works to equip young people with the necessary skills and experience to encourage and promote their active participation in democracy and wider civil society. We believe that our society is only as good as our democracy, and our democracy is only as great as the range of the voices within it. We know that increased confidence and self-belief leads to greater participation and realisation. The result is a stronger and more representative country; a nation where we encourage everyone to play their part, and a society that hears and responds to the needs of all.

We are not affiliated with any political party and do not promote a particular political view. We do, however, work on the promotion of mainstream political and social participation and work with the main political parties and democratic institutions to support this agenda.

Masterclass Programme



The 10-month Masterclass Programme seeks to educate and train young adults from underrepresented communities with classes from those at the top of politics, the Civil Service, and journalism.

The programme has shown that it enables participants to improve their long-term prospects, self-belief, and confidence as active members of political and civil society. With over 250 graduates of the programme, many have gone on to work in politics, charities, and the private sector with support from the Foundation.

2020's Programme was sponsored by Rockwell, SEGRO, Hogan Lovells and Flint Global.

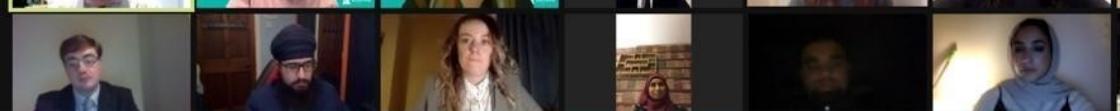
We had **159 applications** to our **2020 Programme**, of which **64 were selected following interviews**. Induction was held at Parliament in February, with guest speaker **Bim Afolami MP** welcoming the new Patchworkers onto the Programme.

Before we were able to have any in-person Masterclasses, however, the escalation of the Coronavirus situation led to the Government's announcement of a nationwide lockdown. **Adapting to this, we moved the entire Masterclass Programme online.**

Alongside the usual Masterclasses, we organised enrichment and soft skills development sessions. Topics ranged from personal branding to intergovernmental working, and were hosted by our alumni, our stakeholders, and our partners in the Civil Service. We also hosted a number of socials and increased our pastoral support.

In December, **58 Patchworkers** successfully graduated from the Programme and joined the wider Alumni Network.





Masterclass Tutors

1. Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP (Secretary of State, Health and Social Care)
2. Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP (Secretary of State, DCMS)
3. Dame Melanie Dawes DCB (CEO, Ofcom)
4. Sam Lyon (Managing Director, CT Partners in London)
5. Theo Usherwood (Political Editor, LBC)
6. Mishal Husain (Journalist, BBC)
7. Sarah Healey CB (Permanent Secretary, DCMS)
8. Donal Mulryan (Founder, Rockwell Property)
9. David Sleath (CEO, SEGRO)
10. Oliver Christian (Head of the Prime Minister's Business Unit)
11. Imran Shafi (Private Secretary to the Prime Minister)
12. Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP (Chairman of the Conservative Party)
13. Antonia Romeo (Permanent Secretary, DIT)
14. Jeremy Pocklington (Permanent Secretary, MHCLG)

Special Masterclasses

1. Lord Mark Sedwill KCMG (Then Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service)
2. Yael Lempert (Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy)

Impact

To monitor the development of the cohort, a Pre- and Post-Programme Evaluation Survey was completed by the participants and compared. Below are just some of the results.

94%

Reported feeling comfortable putting forward their ideas, compared to 60% beforehand.



83%

reported feeling confident solving a problem impacted by politics, compared to only 53% beforehand.

81%

now feel confident working with someone with opposing views to their own, compared to 63% beforehand.



96%

feel confident they can gain training, a university place, or a job/career in their preferred field.

98%

would recommend the Masterclass Programme to others.



I have absolutely loved this programme and I am so grateful that I was able to participate in it. [...] It gave me purpose, self-belief and support through a time when I was feeling low. I learnt so much from all the tutors and have implemented a lot of their advice. I gained unexpected skills such as better research skills, social media etiquette, diplomatic speaking, public speaking, networking, writing thank you letters, asking effective questions and so much more.[...] It gave me the confidence and safe environment to advocate for my own needs and inclusion.

A photograph of a person standing in a doorway, partially obscured by a large orange circle. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket, dark pants, and black sneakers with pink socks. The background shows a dark door and white walls. The orange circle contains text.

The #GetInvolved Programme enables individuals from underrepresented communities to engage with the practical political activities of the major parties. The aim is not only to help engage young people with grassroots politics, but also to create a safe environment for them to explore their own political views. Opportunities range from hands-on experiences of phone banking, canvassing, and campaigning to attending the party conferences.



We held a few smaller #GetInvolved sessions before lockdown, namely attending the launch of Sadiq Khan's mayoral bid, an action day with Liberal Democrat mayoral candidate Siobhan Benita, and a rally held by Sir Keir Starmer during the Labour leadership contest.

Party Conference Programme

Our annual #GetInvolved Party Conference Programme went ahead, though once again digitally. We provided 45 young people with tickets to the Liberal Democrats, Labour, and Conservative Party Conferences (all of which were held on digital platforms).

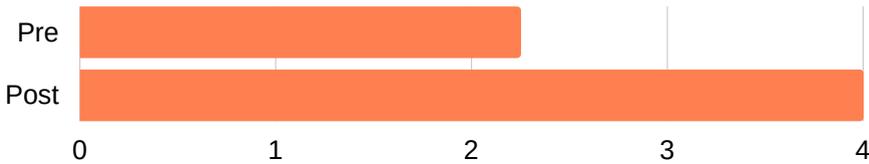
There, they were able to attend fringe events and analyse the leaders' speeches. They also received exclusive Masterclasses from individuals such as Nadia Whittome MP, Cllr Hina Bokhari, Dr Luke Evans MP, Andrew Bowie MP and Jo Churchill MP.



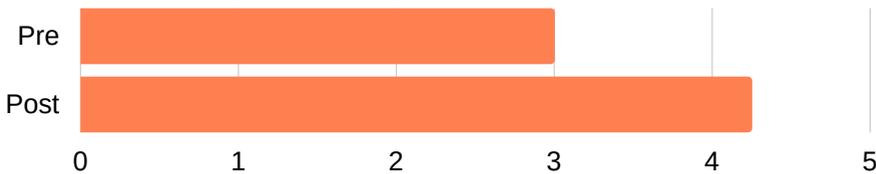
Impact

Participants of the Party Conference Programme were asked to fill out a questionnaire both before and after attending the programme. They were asked to rank a number of factors, with 1 being 'low' and 5 being 'excessive' - some of the average scores are shown below.

Knowledge of Chosen Political Party



Confidence of Getting a Job in Politics



Access to Politicians



9/10

would recommend the programme to others.

3/4

said they felt their expectations were met, even in an online format.

MP of the Year Awards



Patchwork's annual MP of the Year Awards celebrate the work of MPs from across the country who actively work with underrepresented and disadvantaged communities across the UK. The Awards recognise these MPs, and also provide a motivation for others to work with diverse communities and highlight best practice.



After our 2019 MP of the Year Awards were postponed first due to the snap General Election in December and then the announcement of a nationwide lockdown in March, we finally released our announcement of winners via our social media channels in April 2020.

Overall MP of the Year	Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Overall Newcomer MP of the Year	Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP
Overall People's Choice MP of the Year	Justin Madders MP
Overall People's Choice Newcomer MP of the Year	Ben Lake MP
Conservative MP of the Year	Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Newcomer Conservative MP of the Year	Vicky Ford MP
People's Choice Conservative MP of the Year	Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Labour MP of the Year	Stella Creasy MP
Newcomer Labour MP of the Year	Lloyd Russell Moyle MP
People's Choice Labour MP of the Year	Debbie Abrahams MP
Other Party MP of the Year	Tommy Sheppard MP
Newcomer Other Party MP of the Year	Wera Hobhouse MP
People's Choice Other Party MP of the Year	Caroline Lucas MP

2020



Nominations for 2020 closed in August. The winners were celebrated at our first full-digital awards ceremony. We heard from both the winning MPs and our incredibly talented Patchworkers. Insightful conversations were had surrounding the importance of diversity in politics and how to get young people involved. With over 400 people engaging with the event both via virtual attendance and our livestream, we were able to open the Awards to more people than ever before.

Overall MP of the Year

Preet Kaur Gill MP

Overall Newcomer MP of the Year

Abena Opong-Asare MP
and Dr Luke Evans MP

Conservative MP of the Year

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP

Labour MP of the Year

Dawn Butler MP

Other Party MP of the Year

Liz Saville Roberts MP

Judges' Special Recognition Award

Caroline Lucas MP

Muhammed Aminul Haque Award

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP

I'm delighted to have received the Patchwork Foundation's MP of the Year Award. The work that Patchwork does to champion young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and minority communities is vital. They share my own motivation for getting involved in politics – to demonstrate to young people from circumstances similar to my own that they have as much right as anyone to a seat at the top table, and to extend the ladder of opportunity to help them get there. Thank you for the work you do, and for this Award.

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Overall MP of the Year 2019

I am honoured to have won the MP of the Year Award from the Patchwork Foundation who do remarkable work in providing opportunities to those from disadvantaged and minority backgrounds. [...]

I believe it is vital that MPs use their positions to amplify the voices of the underrepresented communities they serve in parliament, and it's that ethos that guides the work I do. I would like to congratulate and commend all the other winners, nominees and everyone else whose vital work in affecting positive change in their communities remains a constant source of inspiration to me and so many others.

Preet Kaur Gill MP
Overall MP of the Year 2020

Reach in 2020

Our #MPoftheYearAwards impact on Twitter for our 2019 Awards alone was

6.2 million people (up from 3.8 million in 2017)

and our reach was **2.9 million people**

The Awards regularly feature in local newspapers in the constituencies of both the nominees and the winners. Our 2019 Awards were covered by over

14 British news outlets

with a combined readership of

250,000

Our 2020 MP of the Year, Preet Kaur Gill MP joined one of our alumni in a

Big Tent Ideas Festival podcast

hosted by Laura Round, where they talked about getting young people involved in politics.

The announcement of our 2019 winners was accompanied by a Times Red Box comment piece by our CEO and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP titled 'Covid-19 heroes reflect Britain's diversity - our leaders should too', reaching a readership of

2,435,880



Alumni Network



The Alumni Network provides a space for the Patchworkers' continuous development. Not only are Alumni supported by the Foundation through a variety of opportunities, events, and advice, but they in turn continue to support the Foundation through voluntary efforts and mentoring to current Patchworkers. Even more importantly, the Network provides a space for Patchworkers to sustain their relationships with each other, exchanging ideas, experiences, and solutions.



#GetInvolved

  UKPatchwork

Events and Masterclasses

Prior to the first lockdown in March, a number of our alumni attended the Europe Future Leaders Reception at the British Museum. We also had an Alumni Masterclass with the Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rt Hon David Cameron.



After moving online, we held virtual alumni Masterclasses. Tutors included:

- Lord Aamer Sarfraz
- Sir Simon Fraser (Managing Partner, Flint Global)
- Jonathan Holt (Head of Audit, KPMG UK)
- Harris Bokhari OBE (Founder of Patchwork Foundation)
- Farmida Bi (European Head of Islamic Finance, Norton Rose Fulbright)
- Sheikh Aliur Rahman (CEO of the London Tea Exchange)

IVLP

In 2020 Patchwork partnered with the US Embassy for the third year of the Patchwork International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP).

30 Alumni applied, of which 8 were chosen. Usually, they would have spent two weeks of the summer of 2020 travelling the US, meeting community groups, lobbyists, political parties, and normal Americans, with the aim of allowing the participants to develop a better understanding of all levels of US society and establishing contacts to share best practice.

Given the Coronavirus situation, the physical trip was postponed until 2021. In the meantime, the participants were offered a number of digital sessions and socials by the Embassy to deepen their knowledge of the US political system and its relationship with the UK.

Sessions focused on youth empowerment and civic engagement, with the group learning about:

- U.S. federalism system and historical overview of youth civic engagement
- youth grassroots organizing
- economic empowerment for underrepresented groups
- State-wide initiatives to empower young women
- youth volunteerism



Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all of our sponsors and supporters for helping us to achieve such an impactful year even in such turbulent times, and helping us come that much closer to realising our mission of promoting the active participation of young people from diverse backgrounds in British democracy and civil society (a comprehensive list can be found on our website).

Programme Sponsors



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How You Can Help

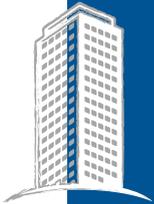
Patchwork's roots as a volunteer-led organisation have led to a strong group of supporters and helpers, which means that 100% of funds provided goes directly towards supporting the development of young people. Patchwork is only able to continue its work with a network of supports. Are you able to help in any of the following ways?

Financial Support



Whether it's sponsorship or donation, we have a range of financial opportunities for you to support our work and help young people from underrepresented and minority communities.

Venue Support



Are you able to host a large event or even a Masterclass (boardroom style for 30 people)? Patchwork is only able to do the work it does with kind gestures of support from our network of supporters.

Introductions



We are always looking to grow our Patchwork family. It would be great if you could introduce more people to Patchwork and the work we do. They could be anyone from a young person who could apply to one of our programmes or a corporate who would be able to support the work we do.

To explore how you can help please email
info@patchworkfoundation.org.uk



#GetInvolved



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