

Hello, my name is Rubbena from DEWA, Deaf Ethnic Women's Association.

DEWA's mission is to support Deaf ethnic women to become more independent and confident. We aim to encourage them to participate in their local community more, enabling them to realise their potential and understand that there are many things they can achieve in life.

My involvement with DEWA is driven by the number of Deaf women I see that struggle and fight hard to communicate and fit in to the community around them. As sign language users, they face many communication barriers, especially concerning additional cultural differences. I feel I am able to recognise and empathise with the challenges they face and effectively support their needs.

If there was one thing I would like to see happen in terms of achieving equality, specifically for members of DEWA, it would be to see more Deaf ethnic women becoming positive role models. To see more Deaf ethnic women succeeding in their career of choice, accessing higher levels of education and qualifications, leading to fair and equal pay. Ultimately, I want them to realize they can make their own choices and instead of being controlled by their family, they are empowered to take control of their own life.