



Celebrating

your work at the Trust

Chief Executive
1998 – 2021



Trust for London
Tackling poverty and inequality

This book is only a snapshot of the huge admiration so many people have for you and the enormous contribution you have made to the work of the Trust and the many thousands of lives that have benefited through your foresight, vision, boldness and compassion.

It is our small way
of saying a big
thank you



You joined the Trust as Clerk to the Trustees in early 1998



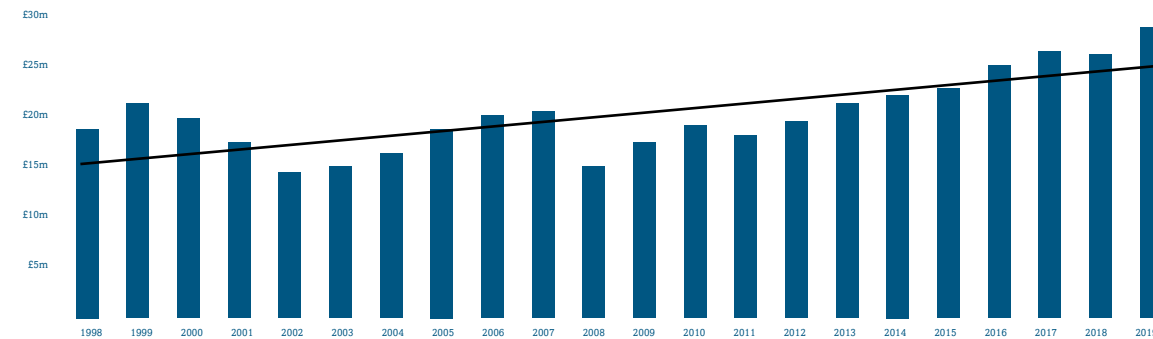
check out that computer!

And that smile!

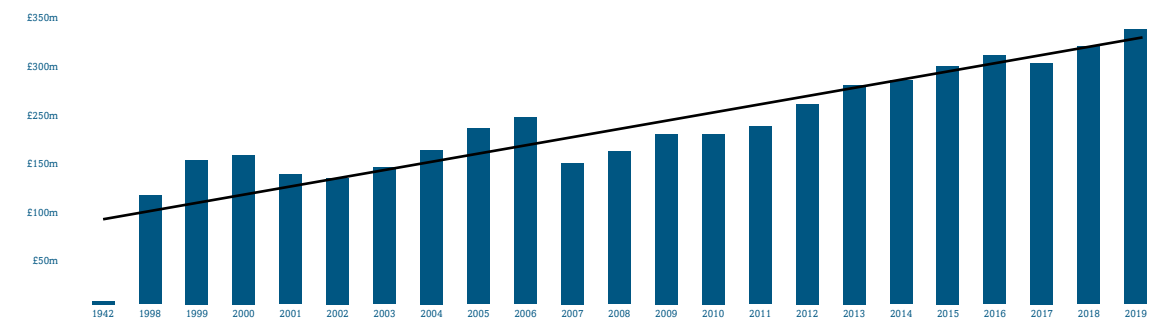
You won two charity awards

And have some
impressive achievements
to your name...

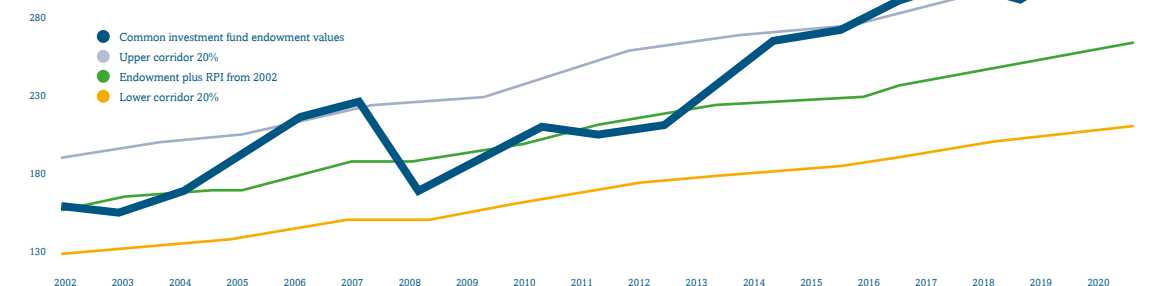
In your time at the Trust the expendable endowment grew by over 50%



In your time at the Trust the permanent endowment grew by over 150%



In your time at the Trust the permanent endowment grew massively compared to inflation



You have worked with five Chairs of the Board



Gerald Manners – who was Chair for 8 years – 1996 -2004. He loved the formality but always a glass of red wine after a lengthy board meeting. In those days the summer reception was limited to Trustees only, with you and Sally of course. How things have changed!!

And then there was the first Woman Chair for CPF – something you were very proud of...

“ Always immaculately dressed, intelligent, confident, thoughtful, reflective, a twinkle in eye and always listening intently to hear all sides of an issue. These qualities are those of leaders – and that’s you Bharat.

Over 23 years you have moved the City Parochial Foundation into the Trust for London, seen massive changes to the grants programmes and procedures, keeping your ear to the ground and making sure the priorities are lived by, and shaped by, individuals and communities.

We started together as mere advisers in the creation of the original Trust for London, back in the 80s and moved to becoming a trustee of the City Parochial Foundation – such an honour. I was on the recruitment panel when Tim (Cook) retired and you became the CEO. A few years later I became your Chair. We have laughed together, had ideas together, chewed over problems together and aged together.

We have shared success together – a short anecdote. I was sitting in my office at Womankind around 5.00 pm and I was told that Bharat was in reception. I found you, black tie on, saying “Are you ready”. To my horror

I had forgotten we were going to the Charity Awards ceremony. I was definitely not dressed appropriately and was shame-faced for my forgetfulness. Off we went in the taxi to this exotic event with dinner first, and then the awards. Yes, we won the Grantmaker of the Year Award for our work with asylum seekers and refugees. So proud we were. And a few years later the Trust won this award again for work on the Living Wage – showing that under your leadership the Trust championed unpopular issues resulting in changes of policy.

A formidable career at the Trust for which you will be remembered, and will continue to be asked about. I am so pleased we have become personal friends – no escaping me – and we will now continue to share the aging process!

With love, and admiration,

Maggie”



“

I was a very new Trustee of City Parochial Foundation when you were appointed, but it was immediately clear to me that you were a considerable force for good. Your thoughtfulness, approachability and informality, and your unwillingness to accept that the present had to be like the past, was a breath of fresh air in a charity largely stuck in the traditions of its historic origins.

Over the next eleven years I saw how your quiet and unassuming manner, your determination to do what was right and your shrewd handling of people enabled sweeping changes in archaic governance, loosened the financial restrictions shackling charitable spend and provided sustainability through diversification of the endowment. And all this modernisation was epitomised in your skilful handling of the merger with our sister charity and rebranding as Trust for London.

Remarkable as these changes were, they were dwarfed by what you achieved for our beneficiaries. You did not believe (as many Trustees still did in 1998) in the Victorian ethos of doing good by stealth. Bharat, you knew that Trust for London should be seen campaigning on the key issues that mattered for the poor of London, no matter how unpopular. In my time on the Board, for example, the charity was an early mover on knife crime, female genital mutilation, faith-based abuse, and the London Living Wage. Your vision, compassion and leadership on these issues has had a lasting legacy in London, and by example, across the United Kingdom.

I'm proud to say I worked with you. ”



Nigel

“

Under your leadership Bharat, the Trust has flourished and has developed a deserved reputation for innovation. I would highlight two major campaigns which go to the root causes of poverty, both once ahead of time and are now considered mainstream.

The London Living Wage campaign is seen as an important contribution towards eradicating in-work poverty. Highlighting FGM in London and helping those people subjected to it. Both these campaigns would have faltered on several occasions were it not for your undoubted vision and resilience. In 2013 the Trust was named grant making Charity of the Year in recognition of this work.

Bharat, you are a strong leader with a dignified authority. Your collegiate approach is well suited to the Trust. You are an innovator dealing with emerging issues rather than dwelling on the past.

When you speak, people listen.

Your charm shines through; you have been one of the most peaceable people I have ever worked with. It has been a real privilege for me. ”

Peter (Williams)

“

Your commitment and your leadership to improve the prospects and future for those who have suffered from poverty is inspirational. As the CEO for 23 years the Trust has consistently funded causes that have been ground breaking in its quest to help disadvantaged Londoners, stepping into risky and unpopular areas that have made a material difference to people's lives.

You have always thought of others first, your staff and your Trustees, and I personally have enjoyed the close working relationship we have had over the last 11 years. Your people skills, and your ability to engage with your peers and other organisations encouraging them to collaborate with the Trust is legendary.

Bharat, the Trust has been lucky to have you lead it for the last 23 years and you will be missed.

That said the Trust will ensure that the legacy you have worked so hard to achieve will endure. Enjoy your retirement and every success in whatever you do in the future, you deserve it.

”



Jeff

And someone who has been by your side along the journey....

“

Well, what can I say? After 23 years we're still working together, the longest professional relationship I have had.

Looking back, we've been through some stimulating and eye-opening situations together, as well one or two tricky ones — whether these were to do with projects like School Exclusion, Employability Forum, other immigration issues, Resource for London, Trustee Awaydays, Focus groups, Quinquennial reviews or grant giving in the wider context.

Throughout this time it's been a pleasure to work with you, listening to your thoughts and approaches to all these issues. It seems to me that we have enjoyed a very professional relationship that over the years has grown into a personal friendship as well.

During that time I've watched the way your leadership style has developed, especially in giving staff a feeling of confidence, the space to develop their potential and the trust to voice their thoughts and opinions. Also, most unusually for an employer, you showed concern and consideration not only for your colleagues' roles within the Trust but also for their future careers.

I do wish you well for this next stage of your life.

With my warmest regards, ”



Robin



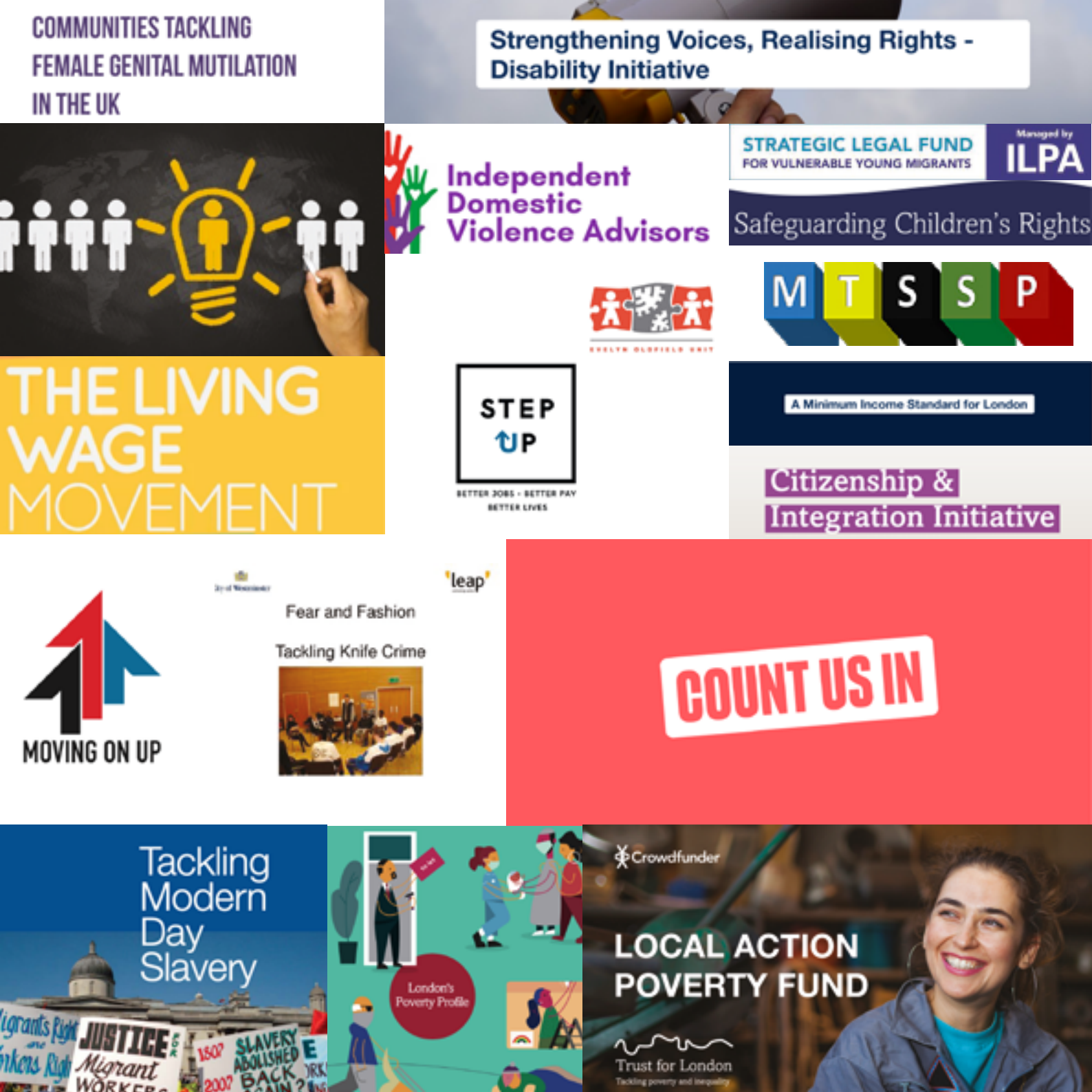
You encouraged us to take

bold steps

to uncover hidden
and unpopular

issues





Over the past 23 years we have funded some amazing work.

A lot of this has been challenging and complex and you always encouraged us to delve into hidden and unpopular issues, areas where other Trusts and foundations feared to tread.

You shared your insights and depth of knowledge which gave us confidence to go there, such as addressing unspoken issues within communities such as faith-based abuse or female genital mutilation. You made sure that our emphasis was always on finding those voices within the communities who needed support to bring about change. Our job was to provide funding but also to use our status and independence to create a platform amplifying those progressive voices supporting their communities.

Support for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants has always been close to your heart. You drew on your own experience of being a migrant to ensure that our approach was non-judgmental and supportive and it has formed a core part of our work over the past 23 years. You also took the Trustees with you. Do you recall when you called an emergency Board meeting in 2008 to consider a grant to London Citizens for their Strangers into Citizens campaign? This was at a time when people were starting to become more aware of the large numbers of migrants who were

‘undocumented’ and struggling in London. This campaign called for an amnesty so that people could regularise their status and participate fully in London life. There were some tough Trustees to convince – ‘are we just supporting illegal migrants?’ But you won them over and that was the start of some radical work for the Trust supporting undocumented migrants, sometimes it was like herding cats!

Whilst a lot of other funders have now got involved in funding more unpopular issues, we have continued to find new areas to push the boundaries, and you have always encouraged us to lead the way and be bold!

It was your idea to launch a special initiative to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in 2007 at a time when there was very little focus on modern day slavery. This was such important work and, with our contribution, we supported some amazing organisations to raise the profile of the issue, eventually leading to the Conservative Government passing the Modern Day Slavery Act. Little did we know that one year later, one of the key activists at Anti-Slavery would become one of our grants managers! Klara brings all the knowledge and experience to continue our work to tackle insecure work and exploitation.

“

Bharat, you have always been there to support the grants team to venture into new territory, the freedom given to take on risky challenges and stood by the staff team to be pro-active. Two areas of work I would associate with you Bharat, which I led on, was the funding of the Council of Ex-Muslims in Britain (CEMB) and Council of Somali Organisations (CSO). Without your support and diplomacy, we may not have funded these organisations.

The Somali community to their credit have come a long way, however this wasn't the case in the early days. The Trust was seen by successive migrant communities as a sympathetic funder and at the time we naturally received more funding applications than we could fund. Some of the applications were for duplicate work, from the same borough competing with each other for limited resources.

With your support and encouragement we initiated consultative meetings to explore how we could encourage greater co-ordination to support the development of a strategic London-wide Somali organisation. This initiative presented a number of challenges, rival groups brought their previous differences to the meetings, the Trust was seen as a big supportive brother. We invested a great deal of time and funds (with City Bridge Trust). The CSO is now a nationally recognised organisation led by a strong board of young Somali leaders. Bharat you were always there in the difficult journey to establish the CSO and without your unconditional support it could have taken a different direction.

You will be greatly missed but you leave a rich legacy behind which has touched the lives of many Londoners for the better. ”



Grants Manager

“

There were so many special initiatives that were sparked from conversations in your office when you would share your vision and ideas – the Belongings Exhibition – something you were passionate about, Preventing Racist Violence, and of course – the London Living Wage Campaign.

We worked together on the Citizenship and Integration Initiative, where you led a ground-breaking collaboration between funders, regional government and civil society to secure real change on social integration in London. The CII has been such an exciting thing to be part of and I have marvelled at the way that you gracefully engage with and hold together people with very different roles and perspectives, enabling them to focus on common goals. You work in the most inclusive way, inviting input from people at every level, listening with your whole self, challenging thoughtfully, and weaving the whole together with skill. You are always able to make political and strategic discussions relatable and person sized, without losing sight of the London-wide prize. It's been a privilege and pleasure to work with you, and, after five years of the CII, you can be proud of the concrete change that we've secured.

With very best wishes and greatest admiration ”





A democratic and inclusive

Leader

much admired by staff
– past and present

Messages
from...

Our longest serving staff member....

“

Your arrival in the office in 1998 was as Clerk to the Trustees and then you went on to be Chief Executive, but I hope now and for the future you depart as a friend.

I hope you may have picked up one or two things from me on the way too!

Thank you for your time and patience.

Your arrival in the office in 1998 was Clerk to the Trustees but now a CEO but

I hope now and for the future you depart as a friend. I am sure if they ever do another History of the Trust that you will be mentioned heavily on your achievements in the 23 years. Thanks for all the guidance and support that you have provided me over the many years and all the opportunities that I have had at the Trust to grow into my role as IT Manager with you playing a big part in this. Enjoy your retirement Bharat and think of us all sometimes! I am sure if Lord Limerick was around, he would write one of his Limerick Poems, as he used to when staff/trustees left, so here's one on his behalf:

"Let's all give the man a big hand
Before he tramps off to the sand
Of some blue sky and beach
As a Boss, he's a peach!
And we'll miss you as one of our band."

Much Love and kisses ”

Tina XXXX

Your PA/EA's

“

I can't believe the time has come and I know it wasn't an easy decision for you to make.

Firstly, I should thank you for putting up with my non-traditional PA ways for seven years, probably not an assistant style you were used to, yet somehow, we made it work.

It was such a pleasure to work with you.

Over that time, we became friends, we laughed, sang, ate, and cried (mainly me) together, and I'm happy that our friendship remains.

I'm proud to have featured in a small way during your impactful time at Trust for London.

Here's to a new chapter.
Best wishes always ”



Diana

“

Thank you for everything! Your support and continued guidance has meant a lot to me, it's been fantastic working with you. You have achieved so much not just at the Trust but during your working life you leave such a legacy behind! Wishing you well and all the best as you start this new chapter in life! ”

Ayca

Grants and Admin staff

“
I wish you all the very best in all your future endeavours.
I'm sure you have many plans for your retirement but I can also imagine you will be keeping busy and it will be hard to wind down. Very well done in all that you have achieved through your working life, also your great leadership legacy left here at The Trust. Take care and keep well.
Love and best wishes ”

Winnel xx

“
Thank you for everything you've done for the organisation. The team has thrived under your leadership, guidance and direction. It's time for you to stop thinking about deadlines and start thinking about tea times!!
Enjoy your retirement and some well-deserved time for yourself.
Wishing you all the best ”

Jaspal x

“
This will definitely be the end of an era! Whilst this will be a sad and strange time for us at the Trust, I am wishing you all the best with your new path in life. I am sure you will be making the most of your new-found freedom, with more memories to be made with Sally and the girls (oh and let's not forget the dog...!) Thank you for all your years of support and leadership at the Trust - you will be missed!

Wishing you all the best for your new adventures to come... ”

Laura x

“
Hey there Bharat,
well, it's been great fun, with lots of laughs, and I'm gutted it's ending.
I really can't imagine you just sitting in doors all day watching A Place in The Sun, and attempting, disastrously, to fix the towel rail in the bathroom yet again, so let's keep our movie, music, theatre, and exhibition tips for each other going ad infinitum, covid or no covid!
The best of wishes to you buddy ”

Martin x

“
I suspect that this is just the passing of a milestone, and the beginning of a new journey and new discoveries, doing the things you love with the people you love most. You have been a fantastic, much loved CEO . Your rare combination of vision, passion for social justice enquiring mind and genuine concern for people around you will be much missed. Whatever comes next, I wish you and Sally the very possible best.
Lots of love, ”

Tania

“
Bharat - what can I say. You have been such a strong and principled leader, but always able to adopt an air of pragmatism and realism into some of the most difficult discussions the Trust has engaged in. I have always seen you as a friend and at times confidante - long may that continue. I am in absolutely no doubt that, in an alternate universe, the MEHTA MIGRATION MUSUEM exists and is lit up in bright, red neon!!!!
All the best for your future.
PAX ”

Austin T-L

“
In the relatively short time we have worked together, it has been a real privilege to become part of the Trust for London family and experience your collaborative, open and kind leadership. Wishing you every happiness in your retirement, spending time with new arrivals and excitement for new adventures that are just around corner.
Best wishes, ”

Rebecca xx

Senior Managers...

“

So many memories from more than a decade working together but to pick out a couple:

When I had only been a few months at the Trust, we launched the Safeguarding Children's Rights special initiative and created a small media flurry on the day of my first ACF conference! I clearly remember you gamely pacing up and down a side corridor speaking on your mobile to BBC World Service, with your finger in your ear to shut-out the noise of the other delegates – and staying very calm and measured about such an emotive subject.

How could I not mention the snappily named Strategic Legal Fund for Vulnerable Young Migrants?! We learnt such a lot and funded some life-changing work...but I will always particularly remember us, silent observers at the end of a table of expert lawyers, trying to keep a straight face when there were discussions about budgets and the exact number of pounds and pence that it was reasonable for Counsel to charge....

Thank you for all your support of me while I was at the Trust. I wish you a long and happy retirement, with lots of time with your wonderful family. ”

Leslie Rachael Taken Milne

“

It has been a pleasure and an inspiration to work with you. You are a true leader - fair, supportive, bold and ready to enter uncharted waters to lead from the front on important issues, even when others are hesitating on the sidelines.

Thank you for everything you have done for the Trust and especially for the people affected by poverty in London.

You will be hugely missed! ”

Klara

“

It has all been said, I am really glad I got the opportunity to join the Trust under your tenure and leadership. You leave behind an incredible legacy and have really set an example not just for The Trust, but the wider sector in values based leadership.

I wish you the very best for the journey ahead and no doubt you will still continue to influence society at large as we move towards a fairer, just and equitable place for all.

I read somewhere recently that there are human beings and there are beings that are human.

People and leaders like you don't come round often.

Best wishes, ”

Ugo

“

Bharat, what a wonderful achievement: heading up Trust for London, or CPF as it was when you joined, for over two decades. Many changes over that period and lots of initiatives, which made a real difference to the lives of many Londoners. Your deep concern for those facing disadvantage was always clear, as was your commitment to social justice. A real pleasure working with you for a number of those years and wishing you all the best for the future. Looking forward to continuing to deepen our friendship. ”



Mubin

“

It's so hard to imagine the Trust without you. You have been a genuinely inspirational leader and have enabled and supported us to achieve so much. Many, many, lives have been made better by the work you have led. I have personally learned so much from you and it has been a privilege to be a part of the wonderful working environment you made possible. Your example and influence will long continue at the Trust. I wish both you and Sally the absolute best for the future.

Thank you so much. ”

Douglas

“

Well, it's been a long time! May I wish you all the best for an even longer and very happy retirement with Sally and your family.

We shall all miss you and the Trust will miss an incredible resource. It's been twenty three years that have seen the endowments of the then City Parochial Foundation and the former Trust for London (yes, I got them in!) more than double to what they are today. And through that time, under your leadership, the Trust itself and the reach of its work out into society have both grown and done good.

A tremendous achievement indeed! You haven't of course actually gone yet and so to say we expect more good things from you between now and October, not least a splendid dinner! ”

Love

Carol xx

“

You have been a tremendous leader, mentor, colleague and friend, and I couldn't have asked for a better boss.

You have always made every staff member feel valued and respected and set the tone for the whole organisation. I recall early on that when you took your turn at reception you would always get peeved if people were rude on the phone but then changed their tone when they realised they were talking to the chief exec. This sent a clear message that everyone should be treated equally. You always took your turn making the tea (possibly because we didn't always get it right!). Your approachable style also meant you didn't always get your own way - dare I mention the migration museum - you very rarely had to use the CEO card!

I've also admired your strong values and deep knowledge of social issues. You have a great questioning approach really delving into issues from different perspectives and listening to opinions, before deciding how to take things forward. This has been the foundation for taking on some very challenging issues.

You haven't just gone with the 'pack' and followed new trends but at the same time encouraged collaboration. Whilst we have worked on incredibly challenging issues such as modern day slavery, Tackling FGM and safeguarding children we have also had some fun. Not forgetting winning two charity awards!

I won't be the only one who has learnt so much from you and very thankful that you have been our leader for so many years. You are so admired by others in the sector. You have made us all proud of what the Trust stands for and what we have achieved. Thank you for that and whilst you deserve a bit of a rest and more family time, Sally will appreciate that too, hopefully you will find new ways of sharing your wisdom and knowledge in the future. ”

Sioned

Comms Team...

“

Thank you so much for all your support, inspiration and great leadership at the Trust Bharat. You will definitely be missed by us all! I will always be grateful for the extra encouragement you gave me when Nav left too, so thank you. Enjoy new found time to relax, spend with the family, and play with the dog as you very much deserve it.

Don't be a stranger - you'll be welcomed into the Trust for London kitchen any time post-COVID!

All the best, ”

Emily x

“

Wishing you a fantastic next chapter Bharat. Although I've only had the pleasure of working with you for a brief time, the impact of your years at the Trust and the strong legacy you leave behind has been clear to me since day one. Thank you for bringing the history of the Trust so vividly to life in my introduction. I'm sorry that I didn't get to experience the legendary walk-around property tour - perhaps you can drop-by at a later date to do this for the pandemic newbie joiners ! ”

Best wishes,

Johanna

And last but not least...

Finance

“ Goodbye Bharat - enjoy your retirement -it has been great working with you but it's now time for you to be put out to pasture to enjoy yourself have a few adventures before dementia with Sally and all the family.

So take the next few years while you have your health and wealth to go enjoy yourself! (please send postcards). I think everyone else has said all the "smushy" and "well done you've done a great job" stuff!!! Have fun Bharat - Lots of love for the rest of your life. ”

Sue x

“ You will be missed. Thank you for all you have been to the Trust and the inspiration you've been to me. Here's to a fantastic future. Time to kick back, relax and enjoy the freedom retirement presents you with.
All the very best ”

Junde

**What wonderful
staff away days
we had!**



From playing fields to community buildings!



Our subsidiaries have always had your utmost support – when things were on the up and when they were in trouble.



Bellingham Community Project
The new Healthy Living Centre was completed in 2004.

What a transformation!

“

Thank you for supporting Bellingham (BCP) over the past 20 yrs and battling our cause when others were prepared to walk away.

You have left us in good shape and at the start of another exciting adventure in regenerating the local area.

Also thanks for bringing me into the TFL fold as it has been a real pleasure working under your guidance and gaining new skills.

Good luck in your retirement and walking the dog

Keep in touch

Best wishes ”

Julian

You stood by when the Resource for London when it was in trouble and, as a RFL Board member, helped to negotiate some tricky times to get it back on a firm footing.

There were also some major property acquisitions....

“

Bharat, you have shown your leadership in so many ways across the sector.

However I want to highlight and remember in particular your work on the Estate Committee and your knowledge, understanding and enthusiasm around this topic. The Trust has a significant investment in mainly City based properties. However the history of the Trust has been also to invest in other, not directly commercial sites such as playing fields. You have been a champion of the use of property for social good and to make an appropriate financial return. You challenge ideas and want to make use of property for the good of society in sustainable housing and for well-being. You were never afraid to challenge the ideas of the professionals and to use the power of the charity in speaking to landlords about the need to comply with their lease rents and thereby help the most needy in our capital City.

”

Alison Gowman

The advisors had a few messages for you too ...

“

Bharat, you exemplify the power of calm, quiet leadership.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you on the Trust's property portfolio since 2010 and will miss your support, thoughtful comments and guidance. We have work through various acquisitions and disposals and more recently the move from 6 Middle Street and its subsequent refurbishment. I wish you all the best for the future. ”

Rupert Williams

“

Thanks for all the memories.

Unfortunately, of course, Rupert, key Famous Five man, was not there! I can't help but think he should have been.

All the very best, Bharat. ”

Gavin.

“


Dear Bharat,
Just because I like the sentiment so much, here is what I originally wrote for inclusion in your memory book, notwithstanding the glaring flaw from my hopeless memory!

To brandish a little parochial self interest, my favourite lasting memory of Bharat's achievements and leadership has to be the final Ashes test at the Oval in, I can't quite believe it, 2009. England retain the Ashes in a nail biting finale, in the company of all those then responsible for the gift that keeps on giving - the Trust's property investment portfolio!!

Bharat, Rupert, Mike, John and I. The not so Famous Five! And the not so well for wear after a traditionally well lubricated day of historic sporting achievement. Fostering truly collaborative teamwork and having the confidence and faith in your team to empower it and allow it to lead and win. ”

Brenley Vaughan Strauss Cook Metta

July 2021.

(Sir) Bharat,
What a thrill it has been to
work alongside you and the
CFT/TFE team. A privilege;
no less. You really are a very
special person; professional,
kind and caring. You will be
sadly missed.
With my very best wishes,


“

A steady hand on the tiller whilst making
some radical changes....

The Governance of the Trust changed significantly with you at the helm –
including reducing the number of nominating bodies, and introducing open
recruitment to encourage greater diversity reflecting London's communities.

You did it!!

I suppose it has its own significance that I've been advising the Trust on its
constitution for as long as you have been at its helm.... So, Bharat, where did
we start? With an impenetrable constitution invented by Victorians, demanding
Byzantine administration, but carrying within it valuable principles and a history
deserving of thoughtful handling. You never let your vision and passion to
achieve great things with the Trust force the pace and damage the best of what
needed preserving, but under your leadership what has emerged and thrived is a
modern, sophisticated and agile charity with engineering fit for the 21st Century.

Individually small steps, but together what an amazing journey. Achieving real
change in a venerable institution is hard enough, but it is a rare talent to be able
to do it with such success and support. This is for all sorts of reasons, but thinking
about it now we all loved working for you because you led the Trust – and led us
in our work for the Trust - with the same decency, understanding and humanity
as informed the vital work of the Trust itself.

It has been an honour to be part of the team. ”

Julian Smith

“

I have greatly appreciated our relationship over nearly twenty years, your support during my time, especially as I was learning the ropes, at the Commissioners, and your straightforward approach to life. I always appreciated the ways in which you wanted to ensure there was a good relationship between the Trust and the Church, through the Church Commissioners. You challenged us to increase the accountability from the Church of monies received and the outcome from that financial support. You helped us with our thinking in terms of the monies we distributed too - very healthy.

You have led the Trust to provide greater levels of support for the poor and disadvantaged in London and provided them with a voice in many of the corridors of power in this great city.

Thank you. ”

Andrew Brown

An aerial photograph of London, featuring the Tower Bridge and the surrounding city skyline, with a blue tint overlay.

A strong
Leader
in the sector

“

As you look back on your time as Chief Executive, I want to reiterate my thanks to you for your many years of service to London and its citizens. You have overseen huge change at Trust for London, building it into a critical part of London's civil society and a crucial voice for London's marginalised communities and those in poverty.

I am particularly grateful for your partnership in establishing the London Community Response Fund. The fund will pave the way for a new model of partnership working in the capital. I also want to thank you for your role in establishing the Citizenship and Integration Initiative, which has fundamentally changed the way London government works with civil society.

I am also so grateful to you, as I know is Cllr Georgia Gould, for your contribution to London's recovery as part of the London Recovery Board.

You have provided essential challenge on so many different areas of our work, often raising key issues that would otherwise have been overlooked, and our work is stronger for it. ”



A stylized, handwritten signature of Sadiq Kahn in blue ink.

Sadiq Kahn
Mayor of London

“

Bharat , you have been a force for good throughout your working career, continuously standing up for those who have needed a voice, promoting fairness and equality with a clear focus on improving living standards for those on the lowest incomes in London.

As a champion for poverty reduction and for migrants rights, you have been truly consistent and two things stand out for me. Firstly your work with us at the GLA on helping to build capacity for those working in the third sector to promote integration and rights entitlements for those with insecure status. And secondly, your work to drive the London Living Wage, helping people to get out of poverty but even more importantly making businesses realise how much their input in tackling poverty really matters. Bharat, you have helped to make London a better place and you will be missed so very much – you've inspired a generation of activists and decision makers, people like me who have known and respected you for a long time. Go well! ”



A stylized, handwritten signature of Debbie Weeks Bernard in blue ink.

Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice

“

I know that LET trustee colleagues share my appreciation of your key role in the field of disaster funding, and most recently the inception and realisation of LET. I just wanted to add to that my own personal thank you for what you've done.

As you know, working with this board, and the small staff team, was one of the highlights of my career and built lifelong friendships during very challenging times. In all of that, it was a joy to sit round the table with you. You often grounded us and cut through the most complex moral questions: somehow managing to combine huge knowledge, insight and wisdom with absolute humility and wonderful humour. We had a lot of giggles.

You were also alongside when we needed you most - meeting Grenfell families, at a time when they were feeling most anger and despair.

These were difficult times and I feel deeply honoured to have worked with you then - thank you. I know Gerald and colleagues will miss you hugely, but trust and hope we will see each other soon.

The gin is excellent up here you know!
Warm wishes

”

Rob Bell



“

It's hard to truly measure your impact on the lives of Londoners. Clearly there are many tangible achievements, but perhaps more important has been your approach. Through your role leading the Trust, your time as a Trustee of London Funders, or as a Trustee of the London Emergencies Trust, you have helped a sector, a community, a city, to navigate challenges, and to do so together.

You have been a valued friend, collaborator and champion to many, and you leave behind a legacy of cooperation and connection that gives me hope for a more positive future for our communities.

You've always got to the heart of issues in discussions, enabling others to voice what needs to be done, and not holding back from speaking the truth about what matters when others would shy away. You've championed and driven forward collaborative, community-focused approaches that have left their mark on the sector, and helped created a progressive movement for change for our city. From pioneering work to centre the voices of Londoners, which are now impossible for others to ignore, to being a beacon that draws others together, this impact can be seen through initiatives from Strengthening Voices through to the London Community Response, and will be seen in programmes, projects and partnerships for many years to come.

”

James Banks

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There are so many things that are very special and that we all will miss about you Bharat - you always found the time to listen to my problems, you opened doors for me personally and platformed us and the issues we are dealing with in many different ways. But for us at Migrants Organise, it was great that you would always show up at our community events and even bring your family with you. This is so special for migrants and refugees - to be heard and seen in such a warm and meaningful way is restorative for our sense of dignity and belonging. Bharat, you were never just our funder, you were our friend, and that will not change, not with you personally and not with the Trust that helped build and lead for so many years. Thank you for all you did and what you will do in the future.

Zrinka

“

Dear Bharat, throughout my career, I have watched many CEO's extol the benefits of great leadership, but I have also noticed that you have never needed to do that. Many have asked the question "are leaders born or can they be taught and nurtured". I think true leaders are naturally and blissfully equipped to serve. 'Service is not a common construct' as many tend to be in the room purely for selfish gain, at least that is considered to be 'a normal' human instinct. However, you Bharat have defied logic on all of the above, largely due to your empathetic views and sentiment as a genuine 'human being'. I have learnt so much from and about you, that in essence, I can safely and genuinely attribute much of my current worldly view(s) to what I have observed in you, in my role as Chairman on the Moving On Up initiative. You were and remain 'a giant in the field of UK philanthropy' and to that end I can only aspire to (ideally) match your level of success and preserved legacy, that prevails. Always in my thoughts, where you rightfully belong – thank you and God Bless you my Big Bro!

Bola



“

Thank you so much Bharat: You have made a deep contribution to the communities of London and wider civil society in a myriad of ways too long to list.

You have such integrity and quiet passion
– championing and enabling all people,
whatever their background or status – an
impeccable model for the funding sector.

On a personal note, thank you for being a brilliant partner on so many projects (the Strategic Legal Fund and Moving On Up to name but two); a fellow trustee (such a wise contributor to London Funders) and a constant mentor and friend to me. I have learnt so much from you Bharat – you are a pleasure to work with combining impeccable values with humour and a drive to make a difference.

I wish you the best of luck as your next chapter unfolds and hope very much we keep in touch. All good wishes, ”

David Farnsworth

Warm admiration from your Trustees

“

Bharat, you were an amazing Chief Executive and it was a real privilege to be a trustee for a small part of your time at TFL. I learned so much from observing the way you went about your work. I have seen many leaders over the years, but you had the rare gift of providing strong and inspirational leadership without ever defaulting to the heroic. It also helped that you happened to be brilliant at your job! ”

Adrian Newman

“

Bharat – I remember that sunny morning you showed me around The Foundry near The Oval and described to me not only its good work but also the journey you went on to encourage its establishment and successful operation. Just one example of your long and hard work that daily now makes a positive difference to the fabric of London's charitable sector in improving the lives of those who are disadvantaged. This memory encapsulates for me your quiet but principled and restless leadership that has been an inspiration to all of us who have been lucky to meet and know you. Thank you so much. ”

Nigel Howell

“

Thank you for your inspiring leadership, your deep knowledge of London and issues of poverty and inequality, and for your personal warmth in leading Trust for London, and welcoming me onto the board. I hope you have a wonderful retirement.

Best wishes, ”

Joanne

“

Being a trustee of the Trust for London affects one's life in a number of ways. It is for all a learning experience, a challenge, it makes friendships for life and it supports so many different needs of Londoners.

Giving the Trust for London its character and its purpose are a very talented group of professionals who make it all work. Field officers, grant advisors, accountants, lawyers, surveyors' property experts and specialists in social enterprise, but all given a direction by the Chief Executive who during my twelve years as trustee was Bharat Mehta.

It was through the lens of your eyes I first understood what the City Parochial Foundation was. Through his focus both trustees and staff developed their skills and talents for the benefit of all those who were a part of diverse London.

Risk was at the heart of all we did then, risk of making new initiatives and going where others had not gone before. Our risks were taken to grow and develop new ideas and challenges for the benefit of those who looked to the trust for support and help.

In my own case a background of property management and administering charitable funds were harnessed to serve the trusts needs and to engage me personally in all aspects of the trusts work.

We all felt as the 20th century moved to its conclusion that the foundation needed updating and above all a change of name fitting it more to the direct needs of the coming new century. Your vision and openness became the touchpoint for this difficult process of rebranding this charitable foundation into a more manageable tool for the next decades.

The new title Trust for London more easily described the work to those who needed access to the organisation and what it had to offer. Your constant reminders of the mission for the trust in the 21st century helped mould the structure for the future.

In my role as chair of the Estate Committee I found in you an experienced property adviser and someone always ready to listen and support. At that time property was the main producer of income for the trust and you encouraged some radical thinking in the use of the property portfolio.

By encouraging property related investments directly as sources of social support both in the Resource for London and Bellingham Sports and Leisure Center the trust enabled direct use of its estates for public benefit.

My involvement in Preventing Racial Violence, the Living Wage campaign and Fear and Fashion reflected all the trustee's engagement with the trust's- initiatives with the chief executive's direct support.

Underlying all the professional development was a sense of friendship with you and each other which he made possible. Bharat, you remain a fearless campaigner for people's rights, a strong opponent of inequality and unfairness, a compassionate human being who has made a real difference to the people of London and above all a man of high principles and great personal humility – you will be greatly missed.



Peter Delaney

”

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You have been an inspiration to us all and your legacy will endure. That said you will be sorely missed yet I hope you have a very enjoyable and well earned retirement. Thank you for all you have done for London and the people you have supported.

With very best wishes ”

Peter (Estlin)

“

It's been such an honour and privilege to get to work with you over the last few years. You've done so much for the Trust. We will miss you hugely, and I hope we'll be able to keep in touch. But for now, the very best of wishes for your incredibly well-deserved retirement.

All the best ”

Sonia x

“

Bharat, it is impossible to know where to start and to find the right words to say Thank You for the amazing, inspiring, kind, genuine and principled person that you are, but I'll give it a go.

Your commitment to ending poverty and inequality in London goes way beyond your role as CEO of the Trust and your leadership has built a a sense of solidarity and clarity of purpose that feels part of our collective DNA.

Your leadership of the Trust has got us to a place where we don't shy away from challenging misconceptions about people and communities or supporting causes and issues, that are often seen as controversial, unpopular or risky - all the while making sure that the people furthest away from power, influence and decision making are supported to have their voices heard - nothing about us without us!

You have been a truly amazing ally to me and your quiet and constant encouragement to take on leadership roles within the Trust has shifted my 'comfort zone' time and time again.

You're an absolute Star!! ”

Tara x

“
Congratulations on your retirement, Bharat! You will most certainly be remembered for all that you have accomplished at the Trust. Thank you for your years of hard work and dedication, and thank you for bringing the history of the Trust to life at my induction.
Warmest regards, ”

Precious

“
It's been an education, an honour and a privilege to work with you over recent years. You have opened my eyes. Enjoy having time for yourself and your family.
Kind regards ”

Peter (Baxter)

“
Your warmth and dedication is inspirational and your impact on the Trust and on Londoners will be felt for many years to come. Wishing you a wonderful (and active!) retirement
All the very best, ”

Grey

“
I feel honoured to have spent a little time on the Trust for London board with you. I really admire and would love to emulate your humble, thoughtful and calm leadership style. I appreciated the way you reached out to me and reassured in a time of turmoil for me.
I hope I get to see you in future.
Many thanks Bharat - the end of an era! ”

Alex Doyle

“
It has indeed been an honour and privilege to work with you and be involved with Trust for London. Your vision, passion, integrity and commitment to social justice is woven into the DNA of the organisation. Your achievements are many. Consequently, your legacy will live long into the future. You leave a massive void but simultaneously have set us an incredible benchmark that I am certain we all will continue to strive to reach. I wish you all the best for the future in whatever you do next and I hope you enjoy the next journey as well as the last one. Best wishes - ”

Stephen

“
**Humility, compassion,
vision, determination,
and integrity.**

It will not surprise anyone that has met you that these qualities, and many more, radiate from the messages in this book. It is impossible to quantify the impact you have had on the world; not only on London's poor, but on all those around you that have benefited from your wisdom, kindness and commitment to helping them flourish.

Finally, Bharat, thank you for showing us that leadership is not about power, ego and status.
You have laid a clear path for us to follow –
and follow we will. ”

Manny





Trust for London

Tackling poverty and inequality

2021

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