

Q: Who's a historical woman that you admire?

A: So many, but they don't always get the attention they deserve. I have been listening to a podcast called 'Empire' and they recently featured Princess Sophia Duleep Singh. In the early 20th century, Singh was one of several Indian women who pioneered the cause of women's rights in Britain, participating alongside more well-known suffragettes. I felt sorry that I hadn't come across her before, and it was a reminder that we need to do more to promote understanding and recognition of different contributions, particularly of those we haven't traditionally heard about.

I don't think some of the women I currently admire would appreciate me calling them 'historical', but I am grateful to the many incredible women that have cheered, supported, and guided me throughout my career. I am also very proud to be part of a firm with so many leading women.

Q: What do you love about your job?

A: The people! I knew from the outset of my legal career that I wanted to focus on family law. It is an absolute privilege to meet and work with so many different people both as clients and as fellow professionals. I will never take for granted the role of being a trusted person at such a difficult stage of someone's life. It means that I get a glimpse into so many lives and their unique stories. I also work as a mediator and as a neutral solicitor for couples who want to jointly instruct me. Being able to work in these different ways means that no day is ever the same.



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Q: What career achievement are you most proud of?

A: Being asked to join the partnership at AFP shortly after returning from my second maternity leave. It was a huge vote of confidence in my and my potential, at a crucial time. So many women leave the profession, which means that as a whole we lose so much talent and energy. Allowing flexible working enables employees (especially women) to work more productively and to remain part of a valued and experienced workforce.

Q: What does success mean to you?

A: Doing things well, most of the time. I wish I could say all the time; but the reality is that we are all human and succeeding most of the time is good enough! For me, this must spread across both my homelife, my role as a working mum, as well as in the office.

Q: What's a small thing everyone can do to embrace equity?

A: To quote the Notorious RBG, 'Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes'. My mantra is that we can (and should) be kind. This doesn't mean being 'soft' or a walkover- but mindful and inclusive in our both language and actions. If something isn't right, call it out. This is especially the case if you are in a position of privilege; and it may even be about something that you feel doesn't directly affect you. By using your position, you are helping and raising others for all our benefit.