



**BISHOPSGATE  
INSTITUTE**

# **Women Activists of East London Archive (WAEL)**

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Catalogued by Nicky Hilton, November 2016**

**Name of Creator:** Share UK

**Extent:** 34 digital folders

**Administrative/Biographical History:** ShareUK was established in 2012 as a community based organisation that used digital technology to share stories, ideas and skills. The organisation brought together programmers, web developers, writers, photographers and film makers to work in partnership with other non-profit organisations. The resulting projects aimed to solve social problems, celebrate communities, and help marginalised groups learn new skills.

The core team at ShareUK consisted of digital content creator Esther Freeman, editor and camera operator Tony Graynoth, web designer Bronwyn, and photographer Mark Burton. Major projects included, 'The Limes: Getting Young Disabled People Online', 'London 2012: Artists Taking Part', 'Greenpeace Waltham Forest: An Arctic Adventure', 'Hackjam.it: Coding for kids', 'From Poland to Walthamstow: a story of migration', and 'Women Activists of East London'.

'Women Activists of East London' was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and looked to explore the history of women-led activism in the East London boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. It focused on the themes of gender violence, the labour movement, racism, environment and peace movements between 1888 and 2016. The project captured thirty-seven interviews with women activists and published a report, 'Women Activists of East London: A study of radical female history in Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Waltham Forest' to accompany the interviews.

**Custodial History:** Deposited at Bishopsgate Institute by Esther Freeman, digital content creator at ShareUK on 11 November 2016.

**Scope and Content:** Thirty-four interviews with women activists in the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Waltham Forest for the project 'Women Activists of East London' led by ShareUK.

The interviewees came from a range of backgrounds and included those who were born in London and those who moved to the city. The activism discussed is diverse, although three main campaigning areas - environmental issues, gender equality and social justice, are recurrent throughout. Most interviews are accompanied by a transcript and photograph of the interviewee.

**System of Arrangement:** The Women Activists of East London Archive is arranged by interviewee.

**Language/scripts of material:** English

**Access conditions:** OPEN.

**Copying conditions:** Creative Commons license.

**Finding Aids:** Copy of hand list available in Library Reading Room.

**Rules and Conventions:** Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

# Archive Catalogue

## **WAEL      Women Activists of East London      2016**

Thirty-four interviews with women activists in the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Waltham Forest for the project 'Women Activists of East London' led by ShareUK.

The interviewees came from a range of backgrounds and included those who were born in London and those who moved to the city. The activism discussed is diverse, although three main campaigning areas - environmental issues, gender equality and social justice, are recurrent throughout. Most interviews are accompanied by a transcript and photograph of the interviewee.

**OPEN**

## **WAEL/1      Anna Pilkske      2016**

Interview with Anna Pilkske for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Pilkske was born in Riga, Latvia in 1974. She came to London in 1999 initially to save enough money to return to Latvia and study. Pilkske lived in various places throughout east of London before moving to the Butterfields Estate Walthamstow with her partner. She discussed finding out, by accident, that the estate had been sold by their landlord, Glasspool, to property developers. Pilkske discusses her role in the resulting campaign against eviction.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

## **WAEL/2      Arifa Nasim      2016**

Interview with Arifa Nasim for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Nasim was born in Waltham Forest in 1997. She is of Pakistani and Iranian heritage, crediting her grandfather and her mother for her political awareness. After reading Jasvinder Sanghera's

'Daughters of Shame', Nasim (then aged 14) ran a fundraising event for the charity Karma Nirvana which works to support the victims of forced marriages and honor crimes. Following the fundraising event, she teamed up with other gender violence campaigners and formed 'Educate to Eradicate' running workshops and teacher training events. At the time of the interview, the charity was working in secondary schools in Waltham Forest, but Nasim had ambitions to roll the programme out across the UK.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/3**

**Beattie Orwell**

**2016**

Interview with Beattie Orwell for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Orwell was born in 1917 on Petticoat Lane, Aldgate to Jewish parents. As a young women, Orwell had joined anti-Fascists meetings in opposition to the Black Shirts, marching to Hyde Part of May Day. She was also a member of the Labour Party, attending meetings and talks. In 1936 she witnessed the Battle of Cable Street, although she didn't stay on the street for fear of being caught up in the fighting, instead marching with other protestors to Victoria Park. Orwell also discusses the Conservative Government's 'austerity cuts'.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/4**

**Carol Vincent**

**2016**

Interview with Carol Vincent for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Carol Vincent lived in Leytonstone in the late 1980s at a time when the Government were expanding the road infrastructure. When plans for the M11 link road were accepted by the Government, her neighbours started to receive compulsory purchase orders. Soon

environmental campaigners from all over the country moved into the boarded up houses to oppose the plans. Vincent talks about her experiences of the protest.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/5**

**Clare Coghill**

**2016**

Interview with Councillor Clare Coghill for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Clare Coghill describes herself as a feminist. She talks about defining moments in her life, for instance the election of Jacques Chirac in France in 1995 when she was a resident in France, and after she returned to London, her involvement in street activism. Coghill set up Waltham Forest Rising and eventually served as a councillor in Waltham Forest. She talks of her hopes for the future and what needs to change in society and politics to see gender equality.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/6**

**Ellen Jones**

**2016**

Interview with Ellen Jones for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Ellen Jones was born in Aberystwyth, Wales in 1953. She attended art school in the 1960s where she became involved in a number of campaigns such as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and Free Nelson Mandela. After marrying, she moved to Swansea with her husband where they both joined the local CND in 1974, taking part in the protests at Greenham Common in 1981. Jones talks about the vigil in March 1982 and her decision to stay at Greenham for two years after visiting in 1983. She talks generally about her experiences of protesting at the Common, as well as the reaction to female activists by society.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/7**

**Emmeline May**

**2016**

Interview with Emmeline May for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Emmeline May was born in St Albans in 1978, moving to London in 1997. Although she admits to growing up in a family of strong women and being interested in the Suffragettes from a young age, it wasn't until she experienced street harassment that May began to identify as feminist. May discusses using the early forms of social media to discuss feminism with other women and men who were opposed to her views. She talks about starting the group 'Walthamstow Women Taking Back the Streets' with Gudrun Getz, and her successful blog posts exploring feminist issues and sexual consent.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/8**

**Esther Freeman**

**2016**

Interview with Esther Freeman for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Esther Freeman was born in 1974 in Colchester. She describes her family as very political - her mother co-founded the Colchester and Tendring Women's Refuge for victims of domestic violence, and her father founded the Colchester Amnesty International Group. Despite this, Freeman feels she came to activism late, although she was always politically engaged. In 2009, whilst taking a break from her job in media, she became interested in climate change and decided to get involved with the campaign organisation, Greenpeace. From there, Freeman discusses her environmental activism, her campaigns against the fashion industry, the campaign 'Let Toys Be Toys', and social issues facing Walthamstow.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/9**

**Ewa Jasiewicz**

**2016**

Interview with Ewa Jasiewicz for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Ewa Jasiewicz was born in Wimbledon to a Polish mother and Lithuanian father who had migrated to London in the 1970s and 1950s respectively. She describes her parents lack of political awareness, especially with regards to racism in the UK and abroad. Jasiewicz talks about the occupation of Camberwell University in 1999 to protest the introduction of student fees. She discusses about how this put her in contact with a number of other activists and led her to the campaign 'Reclaim the Streets' and 'The Carnival Against Capitalism' which taught her to resist capitalism. Jasiewicz talks about the bias against protestors in the mainstream media, and about police brutality. She also discusses how she feels social media has changed the nature of protest and the dangers for protestors who take direct action to the streets.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/10**

**Fran Grobke**

**2016**

Interview with Fran Grobke for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Fran Grobke talks about her first experiences of activism opposing the Iraq War in Zurich, 2002 and then her move to London in 2003 which provided her first experience of multiculturalism. She also became aware of concepts such as capitalism and socialism and how these worked in practice whilst at university in London. Grobke discusses about her work with Amnesty International, and her involvement in Reclaim the Night, Liberate Tate and Critical Mass as well as other movements.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**



**WAEL/11      Helen Pankhurst      2016**

Interview with Helen Pankhurst for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Helen Pankhurst was born in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia 1964. Her mother was a librarian and her father an academic and the son of Suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst. Pankhurst recalls being involved in suffragette remembrance events and how this shaped her personal and professional life. She also discusses her work with Care International in the UK and in Ethiopia as well as what feminism means to her.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.  
**OPEN**

**WAEL/12      Hibo Wardere      2016**

Interview with Hibo Wardere for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Hibo Wardere was born in Somalia, migrating first to Kenya then London, when the civil war began. She discusses the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) - which is performed on 98% of women in Somalia and is still common practice throughout the continent and in the Middle East. Wardere talks about her own experience of FGM and how this compelled her to help protect other girls who were at risk of FGM. She discusses educating teachers about FGM, and working at the Whipps Cross Maternity Unit to help pregnant women who are living with FGM.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.  
**OPEN**

**WAEL/13      Jane Shallice      2016**

Interview with Esther Jane Shallice for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

(Esther) Jane Shallice was born in Manchester 1943. She describes her family as 'very political'

citing her father's involvement with the trade union movement. Shallice discusses joining the National Union of Teachers when she started her career and wanting to be actively involved with the Union. She tabled resolutions regarding pay and conditions, but also regarding racism in the classroom. Shallice helped organise anti-Fascist marches in the East End and helped devise anti-racist policies for schools in the 1980s. She also organised an unofficial strike in opposition to Thatcher's policies in the late 1980s which saw her expelled from the Union.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/14**

**Jannat Hossain**

**2016**

Interview with Jannat Hossain for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Jannat Hossain was born in 1990 to Bangladeshi parents. She talks of her early awareness of rising global sea levels because of the floods affecting her extended family in Bangladesh. She began campaigning on environmental issues at university, later joining Friends of the Earth. Hossain discusses the lack of diversity in climate campaigning.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/15**

**Jo Ram**

**2016**

Interview with Jo Ram for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Jo Ram was born in India, moving to London aged 18. Whilst completing her PhD she became involved with her local Greenpeace group and from there, climate activism. Ram discusses the experiences that led her to campaigning, including waiting for the monsoon as a child. She discusses her role in the organisation Art Not Oil, which focuses on the link between arts organisations and oil companies. She also discusses her involvement with Greenpeace and the direct action

campaigning around fuel poverty.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/16**

**Julie Begum**

**2016**

Interview with Nurjahan Julie Begum for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

[Nurjahan] Julie Begum was born in Stepney in 1968 to Bangladeshi parents. She discusses growing up in the East End at a time of unemployment and social unrest, as well as the murder of Altab Ali in 1978. Begum describes how she felt this event brought the community together, but how she was frustrated because women were often excluded from contributing at anti-racist meetings. Bengum talks about her involvement in anti-racist protests and the organisation Women Unite Against Racism which helped organising the community to unelect the British National Party candidate in a local election. She also discusses the changes to the East End, which she now sees as unaffordable for new immigrants.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/17**

**Laura Mackenzie**

**2016**

Interview with Laura Mackenzie for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Laura Mackenzie grew up on the Scottish island of Arran and describes a childhood surrounded by nature. She first became involved with climate activism at university where she explored the way multi-national corporations controlled food production and land use. After university Mackenzie was involved with both Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. She discusses the protests against a third runway at Heathrow Airport, and the Stop the War demonstration. She also discusses Friend's of the Earth's 'Big Ask' campaign where she engaged with people on the streets. Mackenzie

talks about the dangers of direct action - being physically hurt or arrested, as well as her work for Caroline Lucas (Green Party MP). She also discusses the role of women in activism generally.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.  
**OPEN**

**WAEL/18**

**Melanie Briggs**

**2016**

Interview with Melanie Briggs for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Melanie Briggs was born in 1942 in Gosport. She moved to London for work in 1999, settling in Walthamstow a few years later and buying a property on the Marlowe Estate. A year after she moved to the estate, the council issued compulsory purchase orders with a plan to build new high rise, high density housing on the site. Briggs talks about how the money offered in compensation was not sufficient to buy one of the proposed flats, or stay in the area. She discusses the campaign she launched to fight the evictions, using social media to reach the wider community who were already campaigning for affordable housing.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.  
**OPEN**

**WAEL/19**

**Melanie Strickland**

**2016**

Interview with Melanie Strickland for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Melanie Strickland was born in Milton Keynes. She discusses how her interest in environmental issues developed in her twenties, and how her involvement with the Occupy Movement's demonstration outside St. Paul's Cathedral in 2011 led her to become more engaged with radical politics. Strickland goes on to describe her other activities with Occupy as well as with Plain Stupid, which protests against the expansion of Heathrow Airport. She also discusses her arrest and the following court

case after a protest at Heathrow.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/20**

**Baroness Meral Hussein-Ece**

**2016**

Interview with Baroness Meral Hussein-Ece for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Hussein-Ece discusses her journey to a position in the House of Lords. The daughter of Turkish-Cypriot parents, Hussein-Ece worked with community groups as well as in the NHS. She set up the first Turkish and Kurdish group for women facing domestic violence, which faced strong opposition from the community. In 1984 she stood for election as a local councillor in Hackney, rising to the position of Deputy Leader of the council. Her work in the House of Lords focuses on health, although she is also interested in the 'faith agenda' and women's rights.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/21**

**Nancy Taaffe**

**2016**

Interview with Nancy Taaffe for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Nancy Taaffe was born into a politically active family - both her mother and father took part in pickets when she was young, for instance she has a vivid memory of the Miners Strike, 1984. Taaffe also talks about her belief in revolutionary socialism and how being a woman has effected her activism. Taaffe is involved in a number of organisations including the Socialist Party, Housing Action, and the Trade Unionists and Socialist Coalition on Europe as well as getting involved with protests as and when they occur.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/22**

**Naseem Kahn**

**2016**

Interview with Naseem Kahn for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Naseem Kahn was born in Birmingham, her mother was from Germany, her father from India. She moved to Gascoigne Place in East London from Hampstead in North London because she felt a stronger sense of community there. After taking a walking tour of the area, Kahn was inspired to form Friends Of Arnold Circus. She discuss getting the local community - both British and Bengali, involved in the organisation and the annual bandstand picnic. She also dicusses the relatively new organisation, Gascoigne Neighbourhood Association, her role in establishing the group and the challenges it faces.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/23**

**Nicole Holgate**

**2016**

Interview with Nicole Holgate for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Nicole Holgate was born in Surbiton in 1987. Although not political as a young person, Holgate's first political action was attending the Stop the War march, 2002. She moved to the Butterfields Estate, Walthamstow in 2013 which at the time was owned by the charity Glasspool. The Charity sold the estate to property developers in late 2015, and by February 2016 the tenants had received eviction notices. Holgate discusses how she used social media to bring attention to the 'Butterfields Wont Budge' campaign, including an online petition. She also discusses the process of organising the neighbours to resist the evictions (with the help of Linda Taaffee from the Socialist Workers Party) and of boycotting property auctions. Holgate also discusses setting up a tenants association.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/24**

**Polly Trenow**

**2016**

Interview with Polly Trenow for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Polly Trenow was born in Colchester in 1985. She began campaigning around gender equality and women's rights after studying social anthropology at university. Trenow discusses her influences, including her family, school life and early work. She also discusses violence against women, the role of women in activism and the challenges facing women in society.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/25**

**Rachel Collinson**

**2016**

Interview with Rachel Collinson for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Rachel Collinson grew up between Yorkshire and Scotland, moving every few years because her father was a Methodist Minister. For a time, he was Chaplain for the miners on strike in Pontefract. Collinson discusses the impact of her church upbringing and the human rights and environmental movements on her activism. She talks about the eCampaigning Forum and how this allowed her to connect with other activist and get involved with Greenpeace and later the Green Party. Collinson's discusses her current work involves advising various charities and campaigners on effective online marketing. She discusses her current project, Debt Resistance UK, as well as supporting residences of Royal Dock, Newham, to fight the development of three high rise tower blocks. Collinson also talks about the impact of feminism on her work referencing the organisation Campaign Boot Camp.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/26**

**Rebecca Tully**

**2016**

Interview with Rebecca Tully for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Rebecca Tully was born in Ascot in 1975. Her mother took her to Greenham Common as a child, where they stayed in the women's camp. She describes how her Masters degree in refugee studies informed her campaigning activities around pacifism, climate change and human rights. Tully also talks about her work in the often controversial refugee and migrant camps in Calais and Dunkirk, France which were established in 2015. She also references her work with the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, the need for direct action, her work with the Green Party and the role of feminism in her activism. Tully also organised a candle light vigil in Walthamstow on the eve of the crucial Commons vote regarding air strikes in the Syria Civil War, 2011-[present].

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/27**

**Rushanara Ali**

**2016**

Interview with Rushanara Ali for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Rushanara Ali was born in Bangladesh, moving with her family to Tower Hamlets in 1975 aged seven. Ali discusses her current activism, which revolves around housing policy, especially the plans to redevelop Bishopsgate Goods Yard and other sites in her Borough. She also discusses her work with remittance companies, an area of great importance to Somalian communities during the East African Famine and Drought, 2011. Ali talks about her election as the Member of Parliament for Bethnal Green and Bow in 2010 and her work with the UK Foreign Office to establish the Forced Marriage Unit. She also explores the role of feminism in her approach to campaigning.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.



**OPEN**

**WAEL/28**

**Sabeha Miah**

**2016**

Interview with Sabeha Miah for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Sabeha Miah was born in Bangladesh in 1974. Her and her young son were housed on the Boundary Estate, Tower Hamlets, by the Council at a time when Miah was suffering from postnatal depression. She conveys a feeling of isolation at the time, compounded by living in a new area. She then discusses how she became involved in the Boundary Women's Project at St Hilda's East Community Centre, first as a volunteer and later as the Women's Project Worker. Miah talks in detail about the project and its aims, especially reaching out to isolated women. She also discusses a partnership project with Friends of Arnold Circus and the use of the word 'feminism' within the Bengali community.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/29**

**Saima Mahmud**

**2016**

Interview with Saima Mahmud for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Saima Mahmud was born in Waltham Forest in 1978; her father moved to London from Pakistan. She discusses her early exposure to political movements, before describing the processes of becoming a local councillor, and later Mayor, of Waltham Forest. She describes her role as Mayor including working with groups in the borough, encouraging social cohesion, and tackling drug use. Mahmud also talks about her father's political career and her mother's work with the Pakistani Women's Welfare Association. She discusses the use of the term 'British Muslim' as well as her preference for grass roots action in the Council over becoming a Member of Parliament.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.  
**OPEN**

**WAEL/30**

**Shelia Freeman**

**2016**

Interview with Shelia Freeman for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Shelia Freeman was born in Kentucky in 1943, and grew up in Portland, Oregon. She moved to the UK in 1965, shortly after marrying. She joined Islington Friends of the Earth in 1977, taking part in the anti-nuclear protests at Greenham Common. Freeman became an employee of Friends of the Earth in 1989 after volunteering at the head office. She discusses her experience of direct action as well as the formation of Reclaim the Streets in 1993. Freeman also gives a detailed account of the M11 link road protests in Wanstead, Leyton and Leytonstone which she was involved in for approximately two years. She also discusses the Carnival Against Capital in 1999 and 'climate camps' where areas of significant pollution - like Heathrow Airport, were directly targeted by campaigners. Freeman also reflects on being a women and taking part in direct action and protests.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.  
**OPEN**

**WAEL/31**

**Stella Creasy**

**2016**

Interview with Stella Creasy for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Stella Creasy was born in Birmingham in 1977. She describes her parents as 'politically active' at a local level. Creasy moved to Walthamstow in the 1990s whilst studying for a Masters in Social Psychology. She describes herself as an activist, and talks about this label in relation to her role as a local councillor, and later as the Member of Parliament for Walthamstow. She also discusses campaigns she is currently working on, giving an overview of an MP's work, as well as discussing a key areas of

campaigning in her constituency - housing provision, and street/online harassment. Creasy talks about the women who have influenced her, and what feminism means to her.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/32**

**Sue Wheat**

**2016**

Interview with Sue Wheat for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Sue Wheat was born in 1964 in Sutton Coldfield. After university, a chance meeting in Thailand led to Wheat working with Vietnamese refugees. From there, she describes becoming more involved with activism, working in the charity sector and lending her support to campaigns - for instance raising awareness of the human and environmental cost of golf courses. She also discusses her career in journalism and working to support campaigns such as the Burma Campaign/Burma Action Group and projects in Ghana. Later, Wheat became an employee of Save the Children before returning to freelance journalism. Wheat discusses the role of feminism in her work as well as the impact of social media on campaigning.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/33**

**Victoria Henry**

**2016**

Interview with Victoria Henry for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Victoria Henry was born in Vancouver in 1981. At the time of the interview she worked for Greenpeace UK in London. Henry discusses her interest in 'culture jamming' where activists subvert corporate and brand messages, as well as direct action generally. She talks about feminism, the role of women in campaigning and climbing the Shard skyscraper with five other women. Henry also discusses raising awareness about air pollution during the London Mayoral

elections 2016, and being arrested for her actions during a climate change protest. She also discusses the role of social media in modern campaigning.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/34**

**Zenith Rahman**

**2016**

Interview with Zenith Rahman for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Zenith Rahman was born in London to parents of Bangladeshi origin. She began working in the East End in the 1980s as an Outreach Worker around Brick Lane. It was here Rahman became aware of the isolation felt by a number of young Bangladeshi wives and mothers who were missing the traditional support networks which were relied on in previous generations. In 1987 she began working at the Bromley-By-Bow Centre organising events and trips for the local multi-cultural community. It was at the Centre Rahman worked directly with women to develop their skills and to create a strong sense of community support. At the time of interviewing, Rahman was planning to export the Centre's model to other boroughs.

TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE.

**OPEN**

**WAEL/35**

**Baroness Pola Uddin**

**2016**

Interview with Baroness Manzila Pola Uddin for the ShareUK project 'Women Activists in East London', (2016).

Baroness [Manzila] Pola Uddin was born in Bangladesh in 1959. She moved to London in 1973 with her parents. She discusses the Jagonari Centre and Avenues Unlimited in Tower Hamlets, both of which provided spaces where women from the Bangladeshi community could meet, learn and be safe. Uddin talks about growing up as a Bangladeshi woman in the East End, including protesting against fascist movements and racism in society. She also talks

about working as a social worker, and becoming a local councillor. Uddin also explores the current trend of Islamophobia in society.

TRANSCRIPT ONLY. No audio available.

**OPEN**