

Naomi Patel

Chair, UK&I Women Impact Network

Enterprise Account Manager



Editor's introduction

Portrait of HP: Naomi Patel

This ninth Issue of Portrait of HP coincides with the celebration of the South Asian Heritage Month which, since 2018, has taken place from 15th July to 15th August. We have centred our conversation with Naomi Patel around British identity, together with her pride in her Scottish and Indian heritage. A few months ago she took the role of the Chair of the UK&I Women Impact Network (WIN) in addition to her role of Enterprise Account Manager.

Those lucky to know Naomi would guess that our chat was accompanied by contagious energy, never-ending laughter, but before anything her serious approach to everything to do with Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) in HP. In her role as a Chair of UK&I Women Impact Network she works tirelessly to empower her colleagues, provide tools and invite experts to support our Impact Network members in bringing them closer to work-life balance on a daily basis hence generating wellbeing for our community.

Yet how does one empower their colleagues or indeed, the new generations? Surely, one way is through modelling. Naomi recognises that as a woman at the vanguard she has experienced fear, anxiety and also imposter syndrome. However, she has gone from strength to strength and nowadays emphasises the importance of reconnecting with oneself, clarifying one's priorities, breathing in and out and braving the spaces out of one's comfort zone, those of an actual interest and desire. For this reason we have experimented with the visual presentation of this volume, where Naomi's way of looking conflates the message she transmits and her vision. These images sit in the playful borderline between the visible and invisible, where we confront our internal realities of silence and solitude.

Perhaps surprisingly, plants, representing both ideas and actions, play an important role in these images, for the plants need roots to live, and once they put down the roots they start to grow, enriching their environment and providing hope and aliveness.

In the end, Naomi thanks all members of the Woman Impact Network, their executive sponsors and allies for supporting her to make the WIN's mission of enabling women to feel represented and empowered a reality, while driving HP's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals.

Rodrigo Moctezuma
Portrait of HP Project Lead



Naomi likes living in the North of England, Leeds, but she also enjoys travelling to London since the trip allows her visiting her grandmother.

Naomi recognises the importance of a dialogue, not only in the social, but also the family context. Among her early memories is her grandmother's home, where one day she spotted a swastika, the 'discovery' that left her in shock. Nonetheless, her nana knew exactly how to handle it: guided by her intuition, she offered an open dialogue with a vast explanation deep down the historical-cultural context of the Indian symbol of peace and prosperity, used for thousands of years in the South Asian region prior to the Second World War.





Should one wish to reach their great potential, not only are they to cultivate and maintain their mental capacities, but also their body and physical strength. Naomi adores the feeling of freedom that gives her running. In 2022 she ran her first London Marathon.





From time to time, one is gripped by anxiety or overwhelmed by impostor syndrome. There is no better way out for her than to breathe, get stronger, breathe again and finally leave fear behind. Today, the doors are open to wider diversity, women do more than ever, having more possibilities than ever. For a woman to empower others, she thrives to be their role model.





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From BCN with Love. Part 2



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Naomi Patel

Text translated from Spanish, reviewed and copy-edited by Gosia Polanska (Mojek).

Sop Rodchenvko is the artistic name of Rodrigo Moctezuma (Roddy).

www.SopRodchenvko.com

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by Rodrigo Moctezuma

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