

Progress Together

Last month, the RT. Hon. Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveny and the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Minister John Glen launched Progress Together – a new membership body created to drive socio-economic diversity at senior level across UK financial services. Its launch featured in the City AM, Guardian, Evening Standard, Bloomberg, and more.

In 2020, to boost productivity and levelling up opportunities, HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) commissioned the City of London Corporation to lead an independent taskforce. The taskforce intended to improve socio-economic diversity at senior levels in UK financial and professional services.

The Taskforce included senior representatives from across the financial and professional services, including The City HR Association's Chief Executive, Andrea Eccles who is an Advisory Board Member. Through hundreds of hours of industry consultation, roundtables, and interviews, the Taskforce created an independent membership body – Progress Together, to continue the work of increasing socio-economic diversity at senior levels across UK financial services.

Progress Together is **led by evidence** including the Bridge Group's report **'Who Gets Ahead and How'**. The report shows that across the economy, 52% of UK CEOs come from professional backgrounds – as defined by parental occupation at age 14 (recommended by the Social Mobility Commission). In financial services, this figure rises to 89%, putting the industry **significantly out of touch with the communities it serves**. If your organisation wants to tackle this inequity and improve productivity, and would benefit from a network of peers, best practice guides and toolkits, firm to firm mentors, and guidance on data collection please email: info@progresstogether.co.uk



If you are a UK financial services employer, Progress Together can help your organisation at whatever stage you are on your journey. Have an impact across the sector and demonstrate your commitment to making a change. Boost your 'S' in the ESG credentials, at the same time as attracting and retaining the best talent.

Progress Together is also offering an exciting opportunity to sit on the board. The Board will be diverse and dynamic team who will have a wide range of knowledge and skills to share and who are passionate about making a difference to progression and retention to improve socio-economic diversity at senior levels in the financial services sector. If you can bring insight, influence and enthusiasm to discussions, make balanced and informed decisions, work collaboratively with other Board Members, then this is a great opportunity to make an impact across the sector and demonstrate your commitment to making a change, please email: board@progresstogether.co.uk