LEADING WITH PURPOSE

Gill Arukpe MBE

STARTING LIFE

SHE’S A GIRL
REBELLIOUS
CHEEKY
NEVER LISTENS
KNOW IT ALL
THINK SHE'S GROWN UP
WOMEN MARRY WELL
BE A SECRETARY
RACISM

NONCONFORMISTS

So, I rebelled – aged 15
became homeless – looked for help.

Had a baby – nearly 18

During my adult life I observed, listened, learnt and conquered

Autumn 2024 – 680 Women sleeping rough.

2024 – 10,824 Women in Refuges

2024 – 898 Women domestic violence homicides

2024 – 165,510 Women in temporary accommodation with children

2024 – 3,636 Women in Prison

No separate figure for Women detained under the MH Act. Historically of the 52,458 people detained are significantly more Women than Men!!!

I was lucky, jobs were easy to find in the late 70s

First Job - excited

Misogyny Was Alive and Kicking But Not Recognised

This experience, combined with my early struggles and time of homelessness:

Unlocked my passion to make change and save lives.

Built my resilience

Critical thinking

Need for self advocacy

Inspirational women in my life:

Hilary Thomas
Anne day
Fran Taylor
Julia Myles
Rosmary Coombe

Sheila Mckechnie

Grasped with both hands

1982

WOMEN'S REFUGE

My beliefs, became my vocation in life – changing systems changes lives and breakdowns stigma

To ensure Women are empowered to live independent lives free from abuse.

Legal protection and enforcement

Safe House and Support

Economic Independence

Social Change Awareness – non controlling

Leadership as a Director

First learning how not to be a leader!

Lead with passion and drive.

Concentrated on changing and influencing homelessness, substance/alcohol misuse, housing, criminal Justice, and health pathways.

First Directorship – in 1999

First CEO - 2009

Social Interest Group

Leadership - CEO 17 years

2024 - Founded the Social Interest Group

All about prevention – to support women

- Transformed forensic criminal justice system
- Moved Acute MH wards into the Community
- Provided residential alcohol service for treatment resistant people – first in the country
- Women's Specialist Services

FINALE, OR IS IT?

EBONY TABLE

CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN CUISINE

Coming soon.
Restaurant and employability in Hatfield

Health and Wellbeing center

Rural learning

Neurodiverse app

Interim CEO

Empowerment & My Legacy

- Be kind
- Find your resilience
- Take measured risk
- Listen and observe
- Perseverance
- Understand what drives you
- It's not weak to show vulnerability
- Create opportunities for others
- Hold Integrity
- Treat people the same

THANK YOU

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Email: saunders_gill@hotmail.com