

February 2019

LEPRA WELCOMES TWO NEW TRUSTEES

International specialist charity Lepra is proud to announce that financial experts, Sampa Bhasin and Natalia Bucci, have joined the Board of Trustees.

Sampa has been an investment banker for 28 years, steering clients through acquisitions, joint ventures and providing insights for their business strategies and plans. Utilising her skills and expertise, Sampa will take up the role of Honorary Treasurer for the UK based charity.

She has worked with clients across Europe, India and the UK, specialising in cross border transactions. As a former Cross Border Leader for transactions between Europe and India with EY, Sampa has utilised her skills in mentoring start-ups to articulate their business plans, meet investors and raise finance since 2015. She is also a NLP Master Practitioner and a certified NLP Health Coach.

Sampa holds a Bachelor of Science degree and MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, India's premier institute of management. She also is a corporate finance trainer for EY and is a Governor of a local London school.

Natalia is a Managing Director and Portfolio Manager at JPMorgan Asset Management UK, where she has managed portfolios of equity-linked global securities for institutional and retail investors since 2005. Prior to that, she worked for Goldman Sachs in New York, managing strategic asset allocation for high-net-worth individuals within their Private Banking unit.

Natalia holds a Master's degree in Finance from Princeton University and a BA in Economics from Bocconi University in Milan. She has taught financial and statistical subjects to university level while also gaining valuable experience in academic research and becoming a CFA charterholder.

Natalia brings a wide experience of charitable endeavours to Lepra, including working with shelter and soup kitchen projects aimed at young homeless and low-income families in both New York and London.

Natalia also runs an online retail business, bringing valuable knowledge of the sector to the board of trustees.

On joining Lepra, Sampa commented: "As a young child I've seen my mother volunteer for leprosy eradication in Bihar, India, so for me joining Lepra allows me to take that legacy forward. It was

shocking to realise that this disease is still so prevalent and the prejudice attached towards it still so strong. I aim to bring my knowledge of the corporate/financial world and background with the disease to work with this great organisation to beat leprosy.”

Natalia adds: “I have joined Lepra because I highly value the work that the organisation is doing to eradicate a disease that today we are able to diagnose and treat. It is upsetting to know that treatments are there and freely available but we are still not able to reach everyone that needs them.

I am very enthusiastic about joining this group of talented people and I am confident we will beat leprosy together.”

Lepra Chairman of Trustees, Charles Bland says: “We are delighted to welcome Sampa and Natalia to the board and look forward to working with both ladies as they bring their skills and knowledge to the team. Sampa will take particular responsibility for advising the Board, oversight of financial performance and controls within the charity as well as acting as the Chair of Lepra’s Audit, Finance and Risk Sub-committee. Natalia’s charitable experience will bring the enthusiasm and passion that we hold as a charity.”

-ENDS-

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Sampa Bhasin or Natalia Bucci, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

- The cure for leprosy is Multi Drug Therapy which is administered free of cost to leprosy patients in all endemic countries.

About Lepra

Lepra is a UK-based international specialist charity that has been working to beat leprosy since 1924. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became Patron of Lepra 1952, shortly after the death of her father King George VI, who had been Lepra’s Patron since the charity was founded in 1924.



As Princess Elizabeth, the Queen had taken an interest in leprosy as early as 1947 when she was one of the first Royal sponsors of Lepra's Child Adoption Scheme. She sponsored two girls at Itu Leprosy Colony in Nigeria. Following her wedding in November 1947, Princess Elizabeth sent a portion of her wedding cake to the Girl Guides at Itu.

Leprosy affects over 7 million of the most vulnerable people in the world, causing life-changing disabilities and attracting terrible prejudice and discrimination. **But there is a cure.**

The charity works to beat leprosy in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique by finding, diagnosing and treating people affected by the disease, and providing support to those affected by disabilities or experiencing discrimination.

By raising awareness, pushing for early detection and supporting people living with disabilities caused by leprosy, Lepra works towards a day when this disease no longer destroys lives.

Last year, the charity reached 301,000 people through diagnosis, treatment and care. It reached a further 1.7 million people through health education and events to raise awareness of leprosy and other neglected diseases.

Find out more about Lepra on its website and social media channels:

Website: lepra.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LEPRAUK/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LepraUK>