

International Women's Day 2026: Our Career Stories

Speakers:

Marina Tong, COO, HSBC HK

Mandeep Johal, Relationship Manager, Business Banking

Rebecca Owers, Head of Wealth and Specialist Customer Channels

Gunjan Saxena, Senior UAT Manager, HSBC Life

Kennis Wu, Global Programme Manager

Harriet Wilton, Innovation Showroom Lead

[Rebecca] Growing up, I didn't know anybody that went to work in a suit. They were like unicorns, magical beings.

[Marina] If I look at what five-year-old Marina thought she was going to be doing, I would never have expected this.

[Mandeep] Walking into a branch on my first day working for HSBC was incredibly scary.

[Gunjan] So, a career break is never an easy decision.

[Harriet] After doing an English degree, I never thought of a career in finance.

[Kennis] I'm quite lucky to meet different inspiring female leaders and role models.

[Text on screen] Our Career Stories

[Marina] The bank's never really looked at me in terms of being female or male. I benefited from talent development programmes. They were just keen to support talent and they gave me a lot of different job opportunities. I was a front line Corporate Manager, Relationship Manager. I have done head office roles and I'm currently a COO.

[Mandeep] I wanted to join as an apprentice with the hope of learning and working at the same time. Having met the team, it felt as if I belonged. Growth at HSBC has come from attending various programmes. That has helped me in building my own confidence and has allowed me to move into new roles.

[Rebecca] I remember distinctly sitting on the floor of my parents' lounge when I was talking about what GCSE options I was going to take, and I said, "I don't know what I want to do but I know one thing for sure. I'm no good at maths and I'm never going to work in a bank." And I'm just about to celebrate 28 years at the organisation.

[Gunjan] I decided to embark on the motherhood journey and I decided to give it my full time attention. My break was for seven years. When I returned, there was a lot of mentorship. It gave me an opportunity to be back in the workforce. We have flexible working hours, hybrid working arrangements, so this really allowed me to take care of my family.

[Kennis] I have a mentor and it provides some networking opportunity for me to connect with different colleagues within the bank.

[Harriet] So I suffer from chronic pain. I have something called Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome which means basically a lot of joint pain in my knees. It's not a physical illness. You can't see that I'm in pain. So it always makes me nervous to bring it up in conversation. And the bank's been so incredibly supportive of this. It's given me flexibility in working in the office and at home. And I've never been made to feel less capable of doing my job because of it.

[Rebecca] HSBC has supported my ambitions in lots of ways. One that really resonates is having dropped out from university in my early 20s to have then had the opportunity to complete a masters degree in my mid-40s, with a young daughter at home and a really busy

day job, really felt like I'd come full circle. One of the things I'm really proud of is the fact that over 40% (in the UK) of our qualified financial advisors are women. That's over double the industry.

[Kennis] HSBC is definitely a very supportive place to empower women to grow their career.

[Marina] International Women's Day is where I often reflect and also think about how I pay it forward.

[Harriet] HSBC has really supported my ambition by creating so much opportunity.

[Gunjan] I am full of gratitude towards HSBC.

[Rebecca] If I was giving any advice to someone starting in the organisation now it would be, don't be afraid to ask for what you want.

[Mandeep] I feel valued, I feel acknowledged, that has naturally driven my ambition and has allowed me to grow. And I'm sure my parents are proud of where I am today.

[Text on screen] HSBC | Opening up a world of opportunity