



## Towards Self-Reliance: Poor Women in Changing India

The Asian Business Association is delighted to host a talk by Ms Renana Jhabvala from the SEWA movement on Monday 6 November 2017 at The Carter Lane Gallery, 47 Carter Lane, London EC4V 5AE from 6:00 – 7:30pm.

### Programme of Events

6:00 – 6:05 pm Introduction by Mr Tony Matharu, Chairman, Asian Business Association

6:05 – 6:10 pm Remarks by Dr. Yasmine Hilton, former Chairperson, Shell India (retired)

6:10 – 6:40 pm Talk by Ms Renana Jhabvala, Chairperson, SEWA Bharat

6:40 – 7:00 pm Open Discussion

7:00 – 7:30 pm Networking over Chai and Indian snacks

This event will be an opportunity for attendees to hear first-hand about the lives of poor women in India, their problems and opportunities and their struggles to achieve self reliance. This will be followed by a discussion on jointly exploring ways to provide support through:

- Direct funding;
- Providing up-skilling;
- Linking to job creation opportunities; and
- Building a bridge between Asian businesses in the UK and SEWA -a nation-wide organisation of poor, self employed women workers in India.

Please RSVP Helen Smith at: [hdsgrange@gmail.com](mailto:hdsgrange@gmail.com)

### SEWA Bharat

SEWA Bharat is the national federation of Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) -a movement reaching over 2 million poor, self employed women in India. It has been working with women across India since 1984 to support their rights as workers, enhance their livelihoods and access to finance, education, health and social security.

Despite contributing over 50% to India's annual GDP and comprising nearly 90% of India's total labour force, most of these workers have no regular salaried employment, no welfare benefits and no legal or social protection. As informal sector workers, they depend solely on their own labour for survival. Women in particular, are worse off than men, earning less, with fewer employment opportunities.

With nearly 2 million members, SEWA Bharat workers belong to the following four categories:

- Home-based workers;
- Manual labourers and domestic/small service providers;
- Small-scale Producers; and
- Street Vendors.

### MsRenanaJhabvala

Ms Renana Jhabvala has had a very long association with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and is currently the Chairperson of SEWA Bharat in India. She is also the co-founder and Chairperson of Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO), based at Harvard University, USA.

Ms Jhabvala is globally renowned for her work in the field of self-employed women's economic liberation and empowerment. Besides her direct organising role within SEWA, she has written numerous books on policy issues related to poor women workers in the informal economy and played an active role on various Government of India committees to formulate policies related to the self-employed sector.

In 1990, she was awarded a Padma Shri from the Government of India for her contributions in the field of social work. In 2017 she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries' Ladies Organisation.