



THE  
**SAROJ LAL**  
AWARD FOR SCHOOLS  
2022



## THE SAROJ LAL AWARD FOR CITY OF EDINBURGH SCHOOLS

### Who was Saroj Lal?

Saroj Lal was one of the first Asian women to teach in a Scottish primary school. She grew up in Gujranwala in the Punjab region of what is now Pakistan and her family came to Leith in the 1960s. In 1970, Saroj Lal began teaching in Edinburgh at South Morningside Primary School.

Her many successes included being at the forefront of race relations during a period of immense political and social change, delivering anti-racism training and starting the first local authority interpreting and translating service in Edinburgh.

Following her death last year, aged 82, Saroj's many achievements in equality, women's rights, education and community work are being formally recognised.

### Aims of The Saroj Lal Award for City of Edinburgh Schools

The Saroj Lal Award is a new award for young people and schools, where creativity in challenging all forms of inequality is recognised, celebrated and used to drive change. This award aims to:

- Mark the important legacy of Saroj Lal's life and work
- Inspire action and promote equalities work in the widest sense
- Ensure pupils' views, ideas and experiences are central and communicated widely through creative approaches
- Create a bank of resources for schools to use and share
- Challenge perceptions, remove stigma and celebrate diversity

## A NEW CREATIVE AWARD IN MEMORY OF SAROJ LAL

### About The Saroj Lal Award for City of Edinburgh Schools

**The Saroj Lal Award is an annual award, launching in the autumn of 2021, with the first award ceremony planned for spring 2022.**

There will be awards for primary and secondary aged pupils including those attending special schools. There will also be awards for departments or staff teams whose collaborative and creative approaches to equalities work will be celebrated.

Schools will be invited to nominate pupils' work (existing or new) in any artform including the written word, technologies and multi-artforms. Headteachers will also be invited to nominate a staff team in their school, whose collaborative work around equalities has taken a creative approach and had an impact in the school and/or community.

The nominations can relate to any aspect of equalities and will be classed under the following categories:

#### **Proud to be Me How Prejudice Makes Me Feel Activism**

All work submitted will be considered by a panel of esteemed judges, including Saroj Lal's son Vineet Lal. The winners will be announced at an awards event in spring 2022.

More information on the categories is listed below and further information on how to nominate will be sent to all schools in November 2021.



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## A NEW CREATIVE AWARD IN MEMORY OF SAROJ LAL

### Categories

#### 1. Proud to be Me

In this category, we are looking for artworks in any discipline, including the written word and technologies, that communicate the pupil's personal expression of pride in their heritage, their own culture and/or identity. The artwork submitted should clearly demonstrate how their pride fuels their creativity to make highly personal work. We invite nominations which give voice to diverse groups who may feel disempowered, unheard or unseen, whether as an individual or as part of the cultural group to which they belong or with which they identify.

#### 2. How Prejudice Makes Me Feel

In this category, we seek nominations of work in any discipline that expresses young people's feelings about any form of prejudice inflicted on themselves or others. The piece may express the negative impact of prejudice and therefore may be more serious in nature. The art submitted may be more process-oriented and communicate strong feelings about prejudice. It may be a way for the young person to work through those feelings and articulate them in a direct way to others. Some of the art in this category may be challenging or uncomfortable for the viewer and is designed to stimulate an emotional response.

#### 3. Artivism

In this category, we invite nominations of work in any discipline where creativity is used to challenge perceptions. In this category we seek work by young people whose art expresses their views on social justice and challenges others to change and/or act differently. This category will celebrate the political awareness or activist art of young people, hence the quality of the artwork will be of importance as well as how strongly it is used to convey a clear message.

All nominated pupils/practitioner teams will receive a certificate/plaque for the school with individual cash prizes for Commended, Highly Commended and Winner pupils in each of the 3 categories above.

Please begin thinking about pupils and staff teams whose work deserves to be seen, heard and celebrated, so you are ready when the award opens for nominations.