

PRESS RELEASE

CHARITY TIMES AWARDS 2008

POPS is thrilled to announce that our Chief Executive, Farida Anderson MBE, has been short listed for the 2008 Charity Times Award, Charity Principal of the Year.

In 1988 Farida founded (POPS) to provide a variety of services to support anyone who has a link with someone in prison, prisoners and other agencies. She is an excellent example of how one person has changed the lives of thousands of individuals and families all across the UK. We nominated Farida for this award because her story demonstrates how from one person's actions a tiny acorn can grow into a huge oak tree. With both determination and passion Farida has taken the power of a negative experience and used it to fuel a positive change in the future.



Farida's life was turned upside down twenty years ago when she found herself in an impossible situation because her husband was given a prison sentence. Like many other women in a similar position, Farida did not know what to do, who to tell and where to turn for help. Visiting a prison 20 years ago was nothing like visiting a prison today. Visitors were made to queue outside the prison (come rain or shine), nothing was explained to them; in fact they were treated terribly. One day Farida realised she was not alone. She put an advert in the local paper and set up a self help group for herself and other families who were trying to support someone in prison. Once realising it could be so much more Farida turned what started out as a 'drop in' coffee morning into a registered charity under the name of Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group (POPS).

POPS help to empower service users and give them the confidence they need to become less marginalized. Farida's aim for POPS is to help build a strong and thriving community. POPS assist offenders' families to overcome the difficulties that may occur from social deprivation and issues associated with the criminal justice system. By providing a one stop shop model of service provision in the Visitor Centres that POPS manages Farida has ensured that these groups of people, who are often deemed hard to reach, have access to the same services as everyone else.

Farida has set up, managed and developed an organisation that employs over 70 staff and 20 volunteers. Currently POPS is celebrating 20 years of providing service to offenders' families that reaches, on a national level, approximately 237,805 families.

The Awards will be taking place on the 18th September at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London. We are really excited and all hope that Farida will be successful in receiving this award.

Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group