



## **Women in Travel CIC launches IWTTF London 2025 programme**

*Julia Simpson and Sally Davey amongst the speakers joining James Thornton and Zina Bencheikh at leading DEI event*

**1 May 2025:** Renowned for its thought-leading and progressive content on diversity, equity and inclusion, IWTTF (International Women in Travel and Tourism Forum) has revealed the first details of the programme for its forthcoming London conference on Thursday 19 June 2025.

Conceived by Women in Travel CIC MD and Founder Alessandra LoTufo Alonso and helmed once again by industry figure and DEI champion Jo Rzymowksa as MC, this year's event will explore a range of the most pertinent issues currently facing the industry and wider society. These include a deep dive into the backlash against DEI and its implications, the critical importance of inclusive leadership and allyship, the challenges facing young people in an age of growing online division and how travel and tourism can drive social mobility, change and sustainable development.

Travalyst CEO Sally Davey and WTTC President Julia Simpson are the latest additions to the line-up, joining a roster of speakers and panellists that includes the previously announced James Thornton and Zina Bencheikh of Intrepid Travel, as well as senior representatives from Eurostar, Eurail, Google, One Perfect Group, MarAlliance, Not in the Guidebooks, the UnTours Foundation and Men for Inclusion.

Felicia Letang Mogakane, one of the first founding female rangers at the Black Mambas project in South Africa, will discuss climate change, wildlife conservation and female empowerment, while the keynote speech will be delivered by Jude Kelly CBE, a pioneer of social progress and inclusion in her roles as former Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, and the Founder of WOW – Women of the World.

Booking opens later today for the conference which takes place at Google's office at Central St Giles, with demand expected to outstrip capacity for the fifth year in a row. There is a tiered system of suggested donation amounts, though for those without the means to pay, inclusive community tickets have been made available thanks to sponsors Atkin Jones and Eurail.

For the first time this year, the IWTTF London activities also the IWTTF Stride for Inclusion, a 5k sponsored fun run in Finsbury Park on Sunday 15 June, raising money for Women in Travel

CIC's wider mission supporting under-represented women into jobs in the travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

LoTufo Alonso commented: "Gender equity will always be at the heart of what we discuss and campaign for, but IWTTF is about DEI in all its forms and intersectionality. This year's programme is as progressive and relevant as ever, and I'm excited to be welcoming such brilliant thought-leaders to share their knowledge, experience and ideas with us. I can promise that everyone will come away enlightened, inspired and moved by the conversations we have planned."

IWTTF sponsors include Founding Partner Intrepid Travel, alongside host sponsor Google, and further sponsors Eurail, Visit Malta, DiamondAir International, Atkin Jones and accommodation sponsor Georgian House.

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Women in Travel CIC is a UK based award winning social enterprise that connects underserved, diverse female and non-binary talent to employment and enterprising opportunities in the travel, tourism and hospitality industry. It partners with employers and organisations to provide talent services, education and events that foster a more diverse and inclusive industry.

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Supporting images are available [here](#).