



## PRESS RELEASE

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### SHAEN GABER, ALISON JEFFERIS AND AMANDA RICHARDSON JOIN CLEAN BREAK'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Clean Break is delighted to announce three new Trustees joining the company's exceptional Board as it continues its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and beyond. The appointments include **Shaen Gaber** and **Amanda Richardson**, who have experience in the women's and theatre sectors and are Clean Break Members; and **Alison Jefferis**, Head of Corporate Affairs at Columbia Threadneedle Investments, who has served on Clean Break's Development Committee since 2014.

**Shaen Gaber** has worked with organisations including Advance Minerva and Women's Trust, as a volunteer, mediator and ambassador. She recently graduated with a Psychology and Counselling Diploma from Birkbeck University and has been a Member of Clean Break since 2014.

**Alison Jefferis** is Head of Corporate Affairs (EMEA, APAC) at global investment firm Columbia Threadneedle Investments, a member of the firm's Talent Advisory and Culture & Conduct Advisory Groups, and Chair of Columbia Threadneedle Foundation. She has over 20 years' experience in corporate philanthropy and has been a member of Clean Break's Development Committee since 2014.

**Amanda Richardson** worked in the care sector before more recent customer service roles at The Koestler Trust and Southbank Centre, and volunteer work with projects at Talawa Theatre Company, The Place and Citizens Advice Bureau. As an actor, she has trained at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and been a Member of Clean Break since 2012.

**Kim Evans OBE, Chair:** *"Clean Break's Board is made up of an experienced and committed group of women from the theatre, criminal justice, women's and financial sectors. We are delighted to have appointed Shaen, Alison and Amanda who each bring additional expertise to the Board and will help us ensure that the voices of our Members remain at the heart of the company's work and governance."*

**Shaen Gaber:** *"I am passionate about social justice and encouraging women's voices to be heard from every age and background. Clean Break gave me a voice and in my new capacity as a Trustee, I look forward to helping other women to grow and flourish and to find theirs."*

**Alison Jefferis:** *“I’m delighted to join the Board of Clean Break, a thriving charity doing vitally important work, giving a voice and a platform to women whose stories are rarely heard. Clean Break is a courageous and caring organisation with its Members firmly at its heart, and I look forward to both learning from and contributing to its continued success.”*

**Amanda Richardson:** *“I am committed to equal opportunities and to fighting discrimination. I am delighted that in my new role as Trustee of Clean Break, I will be able to help and engage with women involved with the criminal justice system, and those suffering with mental health and drug issues to lead more positive lives.”*

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### BIOGRAPHIES

**Shaen Gaber** has many years’ experience with women-only organisations including Advance Minerva and Women’s Trust, volunteering, mediating and offering guidance whilst acting as an ambassador, talking to sponsors and government officials. Shaen has recently graduated with a Psychology and Counselling Diploma from Birkbeck University. Shaen has personal experience of the criminal justice system and been a Member of Clean Break since 2014.

**Alison Jefferis** is Head of Corporate Affairs (EMEA, APAC) at global investment firm Columbia Threadneedle Investments, where she is responsible for corporate communications, reputation and issues management and community relations. She is a member of the firm’s Talent Advisory and Culture & Conduct Advisory Groups and is Chair of Columbia Threadneedle Foundation. Alison has 30 years’ experience in financial services, having worked in stakeholder engagement roles in investment banking, funds management, retail financial services and at HM Treasury. She also has over 20 years’ experience in corporate philanthropy and has been a member of Clean Break’s Development Committee since 2014.

**Amanda Richardson** graduated in law and worked in the care sector before more recently working in customer service roles at The Koestler Trust and The Southbank Centre. Her voluntary work includes projects at Talawa Theatre Company, The Place and Citizens Advice Bureau. She received an Acting Diploma from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2015. Amanda has been a Member of Clean Break since 2012.

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**Clean Break** changes lives and changes minds through theatre – on stage, in prison and in the community. It produces ground-breaking plays with women’s voices at the heart of its work. Founded in 1979 by two women prisoners who believed that theatre could bring the hidden stories of imprisoned women to a wider audience, it remains true to these roots; inspiring playwrights and captivating audiences with the company’s award-winning plays on the complex theme of women and crime.

Its commissioned playwrights have included Zawe Ashton, Alice Birch, Deborah Bruce, Lin Coghlan, E V Crowe, Vivienne Franzmann, Tanika Gupta, Katie Hims, Sam Holcroft,

Theresa Ikoko, Lucy Kirkwood, Chloë Moss, Rebecca Lenkiewicz, Winsome Pinnock and Rebecca Prichard.

Clean Break's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season One launched with *Inside Bitch* at the Royal Court Theatre, and included *Belong* at Arcola Disruption Festival and Lyric Hammersmith Evolution Festival, and *All The Lights Are On*, the company's first collaboration with Cardboard Citizens. Season Two of its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary includes *Sweatbox* by Chloë Moss, *[BLANK]* by Alice Birch, a Clean Break commission co-produced by the Donmar Warehouse, and a series of talks and events featuring conversations with Clean Break's founders, Southall Black Sisters, Deborah Coles and Sonali Naik QC.

The Company is led by Joint Artistic Directors, **Anna Herrmann** and **Róisín McBrinn**, and Executive Director **Erin Gavaghan**.

**Clean Break Board:** Sabba Akhtar; Deborah Coles; Kim Evans OBE (Chair); Shaen Gaber; Alison Jefferis; Ellie Kendrick; Sara Forbes; Doreen Foster; Winsome Pinnock; Amanda Richardson; Tanya Tracey; Despina Tsatsas.

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## PRESS CONTACTS

Nancy Poole on 07957 342 850 / [nancy@nancypoolepr.com](mailto:nancy@nancypoolepr.com)  
Sally Muckley on 020 7482 8611 / [sally.muckley@cleanbreak.org.uk](mailto:sally.muckley@cleanbreak.org.uk)

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