

Dear fellow attendees,

Congratulations to all this year's winners and nominees. This has been another exceptional year, with so many reasons to celebrate talented Asian women in Britain.

Recently, I've started working with Shelter, the housing and homelessness charity. Shelter introduced me to women just like us, working hard to combine family and work commitments, but with one major and debilitating difference – they don't have a decent place to call home.

Many British Asians are facing housing problems that are having a devastating effect on their employment, on their health – and on their children's life chances.

Shelter has set out to help British Asian families, with a range of services and projects tailored to our communities' needs.

Now Shelter needs our help and our support. Call me on **07957 564921** or email **smehta@innovativesocialventures.com** for more information about the difference we can make.



Sheetal Mehta **Social and Humanitarian Award Winner 2005**

Bad housing wrecks lives

Shelter believes everyone should have a home. We help people find and keep a home. We campaign for decent housing for all.

We need your help to continue our work. Please support us.



Photo: Tadhg Devlin RH1015

- People from black and minority ethnic (BME) households are more than twice as likely as people from white British households to become homeless.
- People from BME households are more than six times as likely to live in overcrowded accommodation. People of Bangladeshi origin are particularly likely to suffer from overcrowding, with over half of Bangladeshi children living in overcrowded conditions.
- People from BME communities are more likely to live in deprived areas, to be poor or unemployed, to suffer ill health and to live in overcrowded, unpopular housing.

Thanks to Pinky Lilani OBE, Chair of Asian Women of Achievement, for her dedication, and for celebrating Asian women!