



Annual report

2025





Melanie Bataillard-Samuel *National Chair*

Melanie and Lucy pictured (front, centre) with members at a recent regional event

In my first 12 months as Chair of Resolution, I have been privileged to see firsthand the strength, commitment and sense of purpose that defines Resolution. Across everything we do, one thing is clear: this organisation is built on its members. Your energy, expertise and generosity continue to shape who we are and what we achieve together.

This year, and during my two previous years as your Vice-Chair, I have had the opportunity to visit many of our regions, and I have come away each time with a deep sense of pride. What is happening across our regional groups is truly remarkable. There is energy, creativity and a genuine sense of community, with members building strong relationships not only with one another, but also with the judiciary, fellow professionals and the wider communities they serve.

That same commitment is reflected across our committees, which remain at the heart of our work. With over 1,500 active volunteers contributing each year, our members are delivering research, responding to consultations, producing guidance and shaping policy. This enables us to say with confidence that everything we do is delivered by members, for members. The impact of your work is significant. Resolution is increasingly recognised as a trusted and influential voice in family justice, regularly called upon by government, the judiciary and partner organisations to inform and shape change.

This year has also seen continued progress in refining our strategic direction. Guided by research and shaped through engagement with both members and staff, we have rearticulated our long-term vision around four key strategic themes: setting best practice standards; building a strong and connected network of family justice professionals; ensuring the system is fit for purpose; and developing innovative practice. These ambitions are underpinned by a clear focus on membership development, regional strength and meaningful member involvement – recognising that a thriving, diverse and engaged membership is essential to our success.

Central to Resolution's continued growth is our next generation – and I have been delighted to see our YRes Committee go from strength to strength, ensuring that those at the beginning of their careers are supported

and represented at the highest level. If ever there were a group ready to bring fresh energy, sharp insight, and the occasional well aimed challenge to the profession, it's YRes. Increasingly, YRes members are not only participating but leading; proposing workshops, delivering training and shaping Resolution's wider programme across a range of important topics.

For Resolution, 2025 was the Year of the Code, an initiative that aimed to remind members about what being a part of Resolution really is all about: dealing with family matters in a constructive way, putting the needs of the family first. At the centre of that is our Code of Practice.

Being a member of Resolution is not simply just "joining an organisation". An enormous part of it is our Code of Practice; a unifying way of working, that all of our members sign up to and follow.

As the Code evolves and develops, so too does Resolution's aims of pioneering new ways to help couples reach agreements. Every day our members go the extra mile to promote Resolution's Code and the values which make us so unique.

I have heard first hand, from so many of you, how the adoption of Resolution's Code of Practice has fundamentally changed the way family law is practised. It has a positive effect on individuals, couples and their children. It is only by keeping the Code at the heart of everything we do, that Resolution and its members will continue to transform the family justice landscape to meet the need of today's modern families.

At Resolution, we recognise the challenges many of you face in your day-to-day work. Pressures on the family justice system, delays, and the increasing complexity of cases are realities for many of our members. In all of this, Resolution remains committed to supporting you – through advocacy, resources, training and, importantly, through the strength of our community.

As we look ahead, we will continue to listen, to evolve and to build on what we have achieved together. Resolution is a collective effort, and our impact is only possible because of you.

chair@resolution.org.uk 

Colin Jones *Chief Executive*



2025 was a year of real change, both for Resolution and across the family justice landscape. Within the organisation, we introduced a new CRM system to help us respond to members more quickly and better tailor our support. We've also continued to act on what you told us in our latest member insight work, making sure your feedback directly shapes what we do.

Externally, there have been important shifts too, including a new family justice minister and renewed government focus on reforming the law for cohabiting families.

Our 2024 member survey, with a record 1,838 responses, highlighted just how much the profession is evolving. While the 2019 results reflected a strong sense of pride, this time the message was one of adaptation. Many of you are navigating new ways of working, heavier workloads, financial pressures and increasingly complex client expectations.

We know these challenges aren't unique to Resolution – membership organisations across many sectors are feeling the same strain. But despite this, Resolution remains in a strong position. Membership increased

from 2024, and we've made meaningful improvements to what we offer, from a simpler renewal process to more opportunities for professional development.

It's been encouraging to see training attendance return to pre-pandemic levels. Alongside our extensive free online learning, our new 'lunch and learn' bitesize sessions have been particularly popular. We've also continued to focus on non-court dispute resolution, which sits at the heart of our Code of Practice.

I'm proud, too, that even in a shifting political environment, over the last 12 months we have strengthened our relationships with government and policymakers, helping to shape conversations on key issues such as cohabitation reform.

As we move into 2026, our focus remains clear: to support our members, adapt to change, and continue improving family justice for the professionals and families we serve.

colin.jones@resolution.org.uk



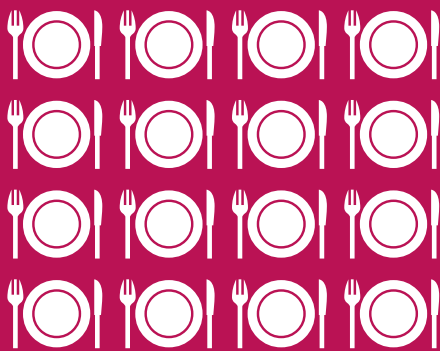
Colin pictured with other Resolution team members at the launch of the Cohabitation Law and Practice Handbook

2025 in numbers

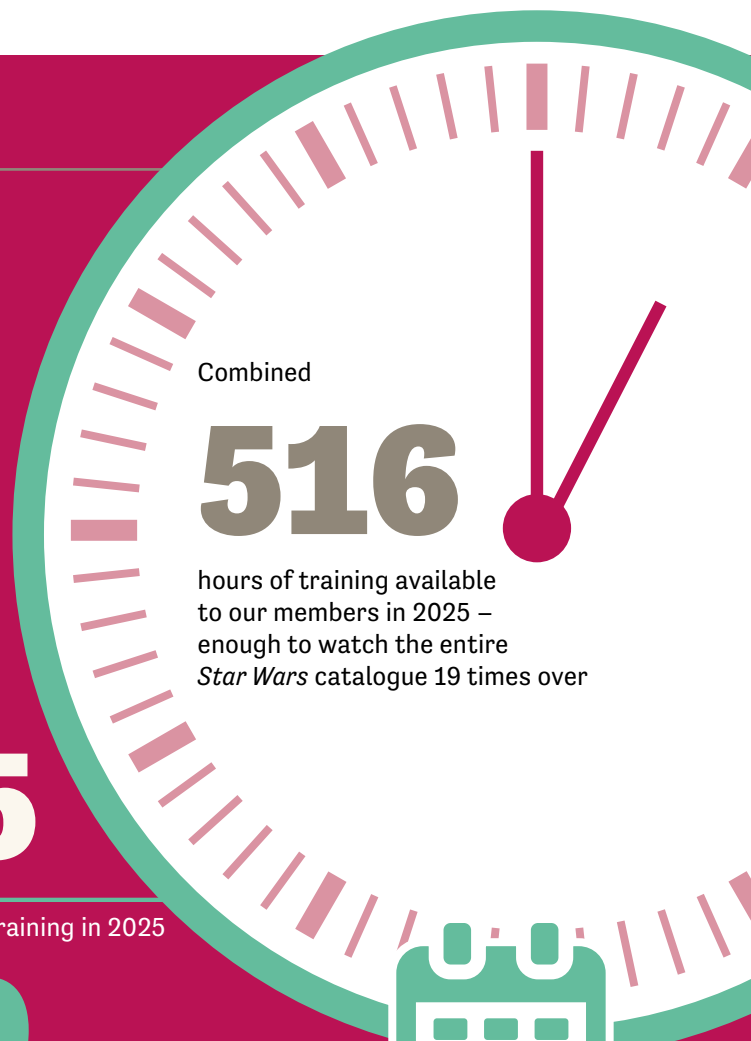
Training



16



Lunch & Learn and Bitesize training sessions developed in 2025, attended by 314 people, demonstrating your appetite for our new one-hour courses



Combined

516

hours of training available to our members in 2025 – enough to watch the entire *Star Wars* catalogue 19 times over



1,955

people attended Resolution training in 2025

7,819

views of our 2025 Training Calendar

Website / Engagement



688,000

visitors to the Resolution website in 2025

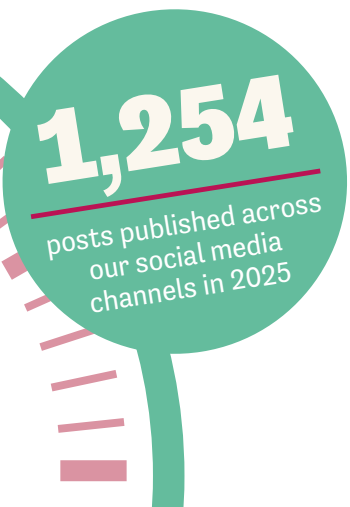


515,750

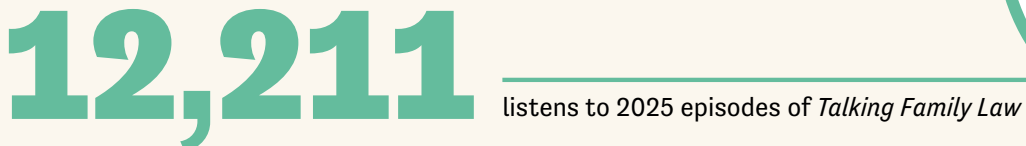


emails sent to our members, keeping you up to date with the latest news, events and opportunities from Resolution

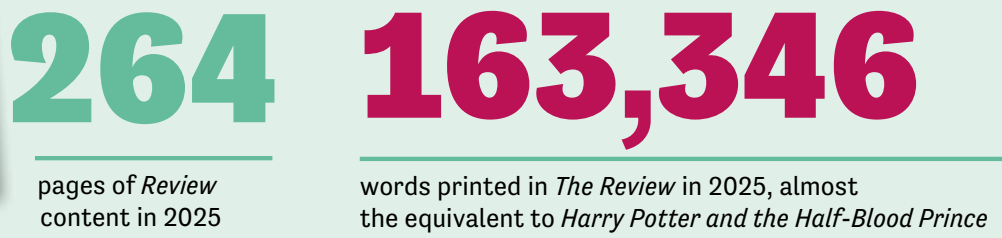
Social Media



Talking Family Law



Publications



National Conference

More than 500 Resolution members gathered in Birmingham in May for the 2025 National Conference, bringing together family justice professionals from across the country.

National Chair Melanie Bataillard-Samuel opened the event by reflecting on her personal journey with Resolution and the role it has played in supporting her career, building her network and creating lasting professional relationships. She also updated members on Resolution's work with government and outlined her priorities for the year ahead.

Sir Andrew MacFarlane, President of the Family Division, delivered a keynote address on the evolving family justice landscape. He highlighted the important role Resolution and its members play in shaping the future of family justice and expressed confidence in their continued impact.

A key highlight of the conference was a live recording of Resolution's award-winning podcast, hosted by Anita Mehta and Simon Blain. Joined by Professor Jane Monckton-Smith and broadcaster Ruth Dodsworth, the session explored coercive control and domestic abuse. Ruth shared her personal experience of long-term abuse, while Professor Jane outlined her research into the stages through which coercive relationships can escalate. The discussion also examined the financial impacts of abuse and the challenges posed by the adversarial court system.

This year's programme included parallel workshops alongside the popular Children and Finance Updates. The morning session focused on capacity in family proceedings, offering practical guidance on key legal thresholds. The afternoon workshop addressed conflict, stress and pressure, providing tools to better support clients and improve professional wellbeing.

Delegates also participated in Family Justice Question Time and 15 specialist workshops covering topics such as; trauma, mental health, neurodiversity in the courts and domestic abuse in financial proceedings.

66
speakers presenting
in 2025

The keynote address was delivered by Sir Andrew MacFarlane, President of the Family Division



525
delegates attended
in 2025



Speakers included National Committee members Alison Bull (top), Elspeth Thomson (above) and Graeme Fraser, (below left) with National YRes Committee co-chair Zhenja Cann (below right)

15
engaging workshops
in 2025



Resolution's flagship events

In addition to our National Conference and Resolution Awards, our other flagship national events continued to grow in 2024, with positive feedback coming from the Future Practice Conference, Financial Planning on Separation Conference and our Modern Families Forum.

YRes National Conference

The YRes National Conference 2025 brought together family law practitioners a day of learning, networking, and professional development. A key highlight was a thought-provoking session led by Marcie Shaoul and Marc Etherington on collaborative parenting after separation, which focused on reducing conflict and rebuilding trust between parties.

Bibi Badejo delivered an engaging workshop that went beyond advocacy, encouraging attendees to begin developing their personal brand early in their careers, with an emphasis on authenticity and individuality. The conference also featured reflections from National

Committee Vice-Chair, Lucy Loizou on her experience as a YRes member and her role in helping establish YRes on a national level.

In her capacity as co-chair of National YRes, Zhenja Cann helped open the conference and later contributed to the Rising Star Q&A, following her success in winning Resolution's Rising Star award. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the profession set an inspiring tone that continued throughout the day.



Bibi Badejo presenting at YRes National Conference

Innovation Conference

Resolution's newest addition to its flagship event programme for 2025 was the Innovation Conference, which brought delegates together to explore the future of family justice. The event featured sessions on AI, cybersecurity, and technology-facilitated abuse, helping members better understand how technology is reshaping the status quo within the sector.

Experts and thought leaders examined how emerging tools are transforming the way family law professionals work, as well as the impact these changes have on the families they support. With a focus on both opportunities and challenges, attendees gained valuable insight into navigating a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The conference offered practical insight and forward-looking discussion on the role of innovation in modern family justice. Workshops explored key considerations when adopting AI, including ethics, cost, training, and system integration, alongside expert advice on strengthening cyber protection. Sessions also looked at how clients are engaging with legal technology and provided guidance on supporting those affected by digital abuse.

Melanie Bataillard-Samuel opens the conference



The Law Society's Akber Dattoo explains why AI isn't going to replace family lawyers anytime soon

65

events, webinars and forums in 2025

DR Conference

Our annual DR Conference highlighted the growing importance of non-court dispute resolution and collaborative approaches within family law.



Conference speakers included Barbara Mills KC (inset)

Delegates heard from leading experts, including The Hon Mr Justice Robert Peel, Barbara Mills KC, and Dr Rachael Blakey, who each offered valuable insights into the evolving landscape of dispute resolution.

Barbara Mills KC explored how family law disputes may be reimagined in the future, while Dr Blakey presented research on the role of mediation, highlighting how practitioners balance flexibility with neutrality in modern practice.

Further sessions examined the impact of divorce on children, with Dr Angharad Rudkin and Penny Coombes sharing research findings and practical experiences on supporting young people and incorporating their voices into proceedings. The conference also provided a practical guide to hybrid models combining mediation, arbitration, and neutral evaluation, demonstrating effective, non-court-based solutions for resolving disputes.

Financial Advisers Conference

The Financial Advisers Conference returned to Birmingham with a programme offering practical guidance for professionals advising on, or looking to advise on, finance in divorce. The event brought together leading voices to share insights on recent financial updates and recommendations and top tips for spotting financial abuse in separating couples.

Mary Waring, a member of The Duxbury Working Party, opened with an overview of the new Duxbury Regime, explaining the rationale behind the updated recommendations. Fiona Sharp followed with a compelling session on the importance of carefully framing language to ensure clients feel supported

while maintaining professional boundaries. The afternoon centred on effective dialogue, with Becca Timmins exploring strategies to encourage more open, constructive conversations and bridge differences. The conference concluded with Olivia Piercy and Anita Mehta, who highlighted key findings from Resolution's report on domestic abuse in financial remedy proceedings, offering guidance on recognising and responding to potential economic abuse.

1,063
attendees at
Resolution's flagship
events in 2025

Modern Families Forum

This year's Modern Families Forum delivered a comprehensive update on emerging issues in child and family law, with a particular focus on legal parentage and parental responsibility in modern family structures.

Lord Justice Peter Jackson opened with an insightful keynote on the complexities of legal parentage, highlighting challenges that arise when a child's conception, parentage and parental responsibility are disputed. A subsequent case law update, led by Jennifer Lee and Mavis Amonoo-Acquah, provided a concise overview of recent developments, covering donor conception, surrogacy and posthumous conception.



Further sessions explored the technical boundaries of legal parenthood, including whether parental responsibility may be void from the outset or voidable following a Declaration of Non-Parentage.

The forum underscored the rapidly evolving nature of modern family law and the importance of obtaining expert legal advice when navigating pathways to parenthood and parental rights.

Specialist accreditation

Resolution's Specialist Accreditation Scheme recognises members who demonstrate skilled expertise in specific areas of family law or family finances, and follow our Code of Practice.

Total accredited specialists
1,602

Training

2025 was a strong and encouraging year for Resolution's training and professional development offering, with attendance on our training courses returning to pre-pandemic levels.

As always, a highlight of the year was the Resolution **National Conference** in Birmingham, which welcomed over 500 members in May, this reflecting the continued appetite for high-quality learning, networking and professional development across the family justice community.

We have maintained our commitment to supporting members and their firms by providing hundreds of hours of online training free of charge. Alongside this, we introduced a new programme of accessible, low-cost learning opportunities, including our popular '**Lunch & Learn**' series and bitesize training sessions. Developed in direct response to member feedback, these shorter, more flexible formats have been very well received, making it easier than ever for busy professionals to engage with ongoing learning. From speaking with members, we know that time is precious for them and that we are more likely to retain information when it's presented in small chunks. We are excited to expand on our bitesize training offering, to introduce fresh perspectives and drive lasting behaviour change.

Non-Court Dispute Resolution (NCDR) remains central to our training offer, reflecting its importance within Resolution's Code of Practice. In 2025, over half of all delegates – members and non-members alike – participated in training focused on NCDR or related topics. We were also pleased to relaunch our annual **Dispute Resolution Conference**, a key event in the NCDR calendar.

Across the year, the Professional Development team delivered more than 65 training activities, reaching a total of 1,955 family justice professionals. Our Lunch & Learn series alone attracted 236 delegates across 13 sessions, with an additional session delivered in December 2024. Building on this success, we introduced **three new bitesize training sessions**, attended by 78 delegates, covering topics such as cryptocurrency, the context of financial remedy proceedings, and enhancing practice through Resolution Together.

Elsewhere we were pleased to see more than 50 Resolution members complete our **accreditation scheme**, taking the total number of specialist accredited members to over 1,600. Specialist Accreditation remains a mark of excellence in practice, recognised by the general public, other members, the judiciary and external agencies.

Our training, events and webinars continue to grow in both breadth and depth year on year. We remain proud to offer a comprehensive programme that provides practical guidance, up-to-date knowledge and valuable networking opportunities, supporting our members at every stage of their professional development journey.

Congratulations to all of those who achieved Specialist Accreditation in 2025:

- Abid Islam
- Adeleke Ajibola
- Ana Beatriz Brito
- Ashley Le-Core
- Bethan Cooper
- Beverley Cullis
- Camika Boamah
- Charlotte Davies
- Danielle Apenteng
- Dawn Keane
- Elizabeth Potter
- Ellesse Wilson
- Emma Hopkins-Jones
- Fateha Ahmed
- Faye Wright
- Folasade Apanpa
- Gabrielle Richardson
- Holly Skelton
- Jaydene Robinson
- Jessica Davies
- Jonathan Armstrong
- Kajalini Vikneswararajah
- Katherine Lauder
- Laura Williams
- Lauren Errington
- Lauren Taylor
- Leigh Hannam
- Lola Ajayi
- Lotoya Dear
- Louise Butcher
- Lucy Winterburn
- Marianna Lambrou
- Megan Rothman
- Melanie Stafford
- Melissa Portlock
- Mia Coultas
- Nicholas Robertshaw
- Nirali Adhia
- Poppy Grazebrook
- Rachel West
- Rebecca Asher
- Ruby Bhatti
- Ruth Hayfield
- Safina Mitha
- Simi Kukreja
- Stephanie McAulay
- Stephen Robillard
- Timothy Joshua Roderick
- Tracy Talbot
- Victoria Iliff
- Victoria Louise Boswell
- Zoe Allen

52
People accredited this year

And the winners are...

Celebrating excellence across family justice



12
awards presented
in 2025

Resolution National Chair **Melanie Bataillard-Samuel** (pictured on stage, above) addresses guests at our Awards ceremony, which was hosted by **Joanna Gosling** (left)

More than 200 members of the Resolution community gathered at Church House, London, on Thursday 18 September for an evening of celebration as our 2025 Resolution Awards winners were revealed.

Now in its fourth year, the Awards have grown to include 12 categories, with seven brand new awards introduced for 2025. From the Out of Court Practitioner award to the Region of the Year, this year's expanded line-up reflected the breadth of expertise, innovation and dedication found across Resolution's diverse membership.

Resolution national chair, Melanie Bataillard-Samuel, shared a message of celebration and reflection on the evening:

“Congratulations to all the winners of the Resolution Awards 2025. Our Awards are a celebration of excellence within the family justice community, shining a light on those who go above and beyond to support families with compassion, professionalism, and dedication.

All of our winners, and those who were nominated, epitomise the principles at the heart of Resolution's work, demonstrating unwavering commitment to a non-confrontational, constructive approach while working in a demanding and emotional profession.

Tonight has been an important opportunity for us to pause, reflect, and recognise the achievements of those individuals and teams who make a lasting difference to improving outcomes for families across the country.”

The evening honoured exceptional individuals and organisations from all corners of the UK, showcasing not only emerging talent but also the lasting impact of those who have dedicated their careers to family justice.

The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award – presented in memory of John Cornwell – was awarded to Justin Lees. His decades-long commitment to the profession, unwavering integrity, and tireless work to improve outcomes for separating families was warmly recognised by peers and colleagues.

139
nominations to the
2025 awards

150
people celebrated
our champions

Thank you to
our sponsors

AlphaBiolabs™



harcourt
FAMILY LAW

Lifetime Achievement Award

Justin Lees Chichester Family Law Practice



Resolution Barrister of the Year

Tristan Harvey Queen Elizabeth Building



Resolution Legal Executive of the Year

David Cobern Tozers



Resolution Out of Court Practitioner of the Year

Rebecca Hawkins and Claire Webb Family Solutions



Resolution Solicitor of the Year sponsored by AlphaBiolabs

Catherine Sousa Sousa Law



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Champion

Jo O'Sullivan O'Sullivan Family Law



Resolution Rising Star sponsored by Cansford Laboratories

Zhenja Cann Thrings



Resolution Region of the Year

South Wales Region



Resolution Children Practitioner of the Year sponsored by Harcourt

James Netto The International Family Law Group LLP



Resolution Finance Professional of the Year

Shaf Hussein Ripple Wealth



Resolution Firm of the Year

Mills & Reeve



Resolution Legal Aid Practitioner of the Year

Ravi Kaur Mahey Cartwright King



Policy work

Our members continue to be at the forefront of policy development and law reform. Thanks to your engagement, our collective voice with policymakers is stronger than ever.

Resolution maintains strong relationships with government and key stakeholders, delivering tangible benefits for members. Here are some of our highlights from 2025:



Responding to the Covid-19 Public Inquiry

We were called to give evidence to the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry on the impact of the pandemic on children and young people in the family justice system. This invitation was a reminder of the high regard in which Resolution's views, and the views of our members, are held.

We submitted a detailed witness statement capturing both professional experience and the realities faced by families. The evidence has already shaped our wider policy work, including our submission to the Justice Committee on Access to Justice, and will help inform the Covid Inquiry's recommendations due in 2026–27.

Driving progress towards cohabitation reform

Securing legal rights for cohabitants remains our top policy priority, reflecting strong member support for reform. We have continued to engage closely with the Ministry of Justice and Ministers, building on previous parliamentary activity, and a new Working Party has been established to prepare for the anticipated consultation.

We also contributed to wider sector discussions, including participation in a Cohabitation Conference organised by Durham Law School, with a Resolution panel opening the event.

Championing access to justice and legal aid

We remain committed to improving access to justice, particularly through fair legal aid funding, including continuing to press for an increase in legal aid pay rates for family lawyers and mediators.

We responded to the Ministry of Justice's Civil Legal Aid consultation. We also submitted evidence highlighting the importance of early legal advice and supported members through the Legal Aid Agency cyberattack, calling for stronger contingency planning.

Improving protection for domestic abuse survivors

We have been building on our Domestic Abuse in Financial Remedy Proceedings report, working with government and partners to progress its recommendations. In 2025 we sustained lobbying contributed to improvements in the legal aid gateway for domestic abuse survivors. We are also engaging in ongoing discussions around Domestic Abuse Protection Orders and the use of electronic monitoring.



View all of our Consultation Responses from 2025



Consultation responses

Throughout 2025, we responded to a range of consultations, including the Family Procedure Rule Committee's proposed revised PD27A, and the Online Procedure Rule Committee's first consultation on digital justice. Whilst there has not been a formal consultation on the private law pathfinder programme, we are a member of the Ministry of Justice's Stakeholder Reference Group to provide constructive challenge and suggestions on pathfinder. We have also contributed to ongoing policy development through stakeholder groups and sector bodies.

Good Divorce Week 2025: Celebrating the Year of the Code

Resolution's Good Divorce Week took place in November, marking a key moment in celebrating Resolution's Year of the Code.

This year's campaign shone a spotlight on Resolution's Code of Practice, reinforcing what it means to be a member and why a constructive, family-first approach remains at the heart of family justice.


The Year of the Code has been a sustained effort to remind members of the principles that underpin Resolution: reducing conflict, prioritising the needs of families, and promoting a more compassionate approach to separation. Good Divorce Week provided a focal point to bring these values to life – both externally, through public engagement, and internally, by reconnecting members with the tools and resources available to support best practice.


Throughout the week, members across the country actively championed these values. They engaged with local media, shared insights and experiences online, hosted events, and sparked conversations within their workplaces. Collectively, these efforts amplified a consistent message: that a fair, modern family justice system must be built on a non-confrontational, forward-thinking approach.

Resolution also used the week to call for more funds to help couples facing separation and divorce, in order to reduce delays in the family court. The call comes on the back of a government report that revealed the average duration of private cases in the family court has increased from 26 weeks in 2018 to 41 weeks in 2024.

Limited access to early legal advice means many families miss the opportunity to take this approach, often turning to the courts later and under greater pressure. At the same time, an under-resourced court system and a rise in self-representation are compounding delays.

In response, Resolution's Vision for Family Justice calls for greater investment in early legal information and advice, ensuring families can access the right support at the right time. Good Divorce Week 2025 successfully combined this policy message with powerful member-led advocacy, demonstrating both the strength of the Resolution community and the urgent need for reform.




Ben Thompson 
Paralegal at Howells Solicitors


I'm proud to support [Resolution](#) and this year's Year of the Code.

The Code of Practice is at the heart of what it means to be part of Resolution. It promotes a constructive, child-focused approach to family law—reminding us that putting the needs of the whole family first is not just best practice, it's the right thing to do.

2025 is the Year of the Code. Let's continue to uphold the values that define Resolution and make a real difference in how legal professionals support families through challenging times.


46 | Resolution resources promoted during Good Divorce Week 2025, reinforcing the importance of our Code of Practice




Tees 

It's been called the "Year of the Code", and for good reason. The Resolution Code of Practice has moved from being a guiding framework to a powerful influence on how we work as family lawyers.

This shift has encouraged all of us to communicate with empathy, use language that reduces conflict, and keep families and especially children, at the heart of everything we do.



Anelia Stalinkevicius 
Family Paralegal

It's [#GoodDivorceWeek](#) — a time to highlight the need for a better way to support families through separation.

As Resolution members, we believe divorce doesn't have to mean conflict. There is a better way — one that puts respect, communication, and children's wellbeing first.

6,112 | views of our Code of Practice during the Year of the Code



Sushma Kotecha - Holistic Family Mediator and Coach 
Ex-lawyer, accredited family mediator

This week is Good Divorce Week, a national campaign led by [Resolution](#) to promote more constructive approaches to separation and divorce.

The focus this year is on the Resolution Code of Practice, which sets the standard for professionals working in family justice. As a proud Resolution member, I follow this code in all the work I do with clients. It means supporting couples to communicate respectfully, keep the needs of children at the centre, and move forward without unnecessary conflict.

Publications

Guides and Handbooks

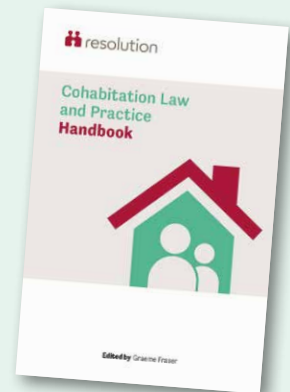
Resolution was proud to release two flagship handbooks in 2025 with five-star reviews. Both publications have helped to achieve exceptional sales across our range of handbooks, essential guides and publications, and we achieved the highest publications margin in a decade.



Cohabitation Law and Practice Handbook

The Cohabitation Law and Practice Handbook is an authoritative yet practical guide to cohabitation law for family lawyers advising unmarried couples on complex property and trust law principles and related matters. We celebrated the book with launches in London and Sussex.

The handbook guides practitioners through the overarching principles of trusts law, through, cover each stage of the process from initial instruction to final hearing of a TOLATA claim including coverage of related claims.



International Family Law Handbook

The *International Family Law Handbook* covers all aspects of international family law. Whether used as a quick reference point or a comprehensive guide on a particular topic, this is an essential resource for all practitioners specialising in international family law.

“What is perhaps most impressive is the almost unique balance the authors have struck in appealing to all practitioners regardless of their experience and expertise in international family law issues”

Michael Allum, International Family Law Group

“This handbook provides comprehensive and informative guidance on a wide variety of international topics, all presented in a clear and succinct format.”

Henry Dawson in the Law Society Gazette



The Handbooks were unveiled at special book launches, recognising the effort and commitment of the teams of authors.



Editors and contributors pictured at the launches of the Handbooks



The Review

In 2025, *The Review* acted as the backbone to celebrating the Resolution’s Year of the Code.

With the support of cross-committee collaboration and led by the Publications Committee, this year’s six issues of *The Review* demonstrated our strategic aim of building a strong community network and showcased who we are as an organisation, with a particular focus on the importance of Resolution’s Code of Practice in our members’ day-to-day working lives.

This year there was a drive to celebrate our Code of Practice, highlighting a number of Code-related issues such as: reducing conflict and confrontation, putting the interests of children first and how best to guide families through the options available to them.

We also published a special wellbeing issue on grief, loss and midlife issues, as well as introducing our new Chair and Vice-Chair, Melanie Bataillard-Samuel and Lucy Loizou, to our members.



Esther Pilger, Head of Editorial, Resolution:

“*The Review* is the central touchpoint to the organisation for members, and in 2025 we were proud to have published content from the breadth of Resolution membership, from lawyers to arbitrators, judges to mediators and therapeutic professionals to financial professionals.

“We have also seen an increase in YRes members contributing to the magazine, and through the introduction of a new column written by Joanna Gosling, and many insightful articles, *The Review* has made a great effort to shine a light on the importance of NCDR.”



Resolution released 12 episodes of its podcast, **Talking Family Law**, including a special recording live from National Conference and a YRes Takeover. This year, hosts Anita Mehta and Simon Blain were joined by leading figures from the family justice community – including Baroness Helena Kennedy, Sir Nicholas Mostyn and Sir Jonathan Cohen – to tackle key issues affecting the sector.

Season 4, Episode 5:

The Three Rs – Reluctance, Resistance and Refusal

Season 4, Episode 6:

YRes takeover – Thriving in Law: Culture, Careers, and Community

Season 4, Episode 7:

Capacity Issues in Family Litigation: The Lights Are Not Out!

Season 4, Episode 8:

Half a Century in Family Law

Season 4, Episode 9:

Financial Remedy: to reform, or not to reform?

Season 4, Episode 10:

LIVE from National Conference: Serious coercive control with Jane Monckton-Smith and Ruth Dodsworth

Season 4, Episode 11:

Bankruptcy: The Final Frontier

Season 4, Episode 12:

Standish: A New Dawn?

Season 5, Episode 1:

Covert Recordings and Tracking Devices

Season 5, Episode 2:

Trusts and Divorce

Season 5, Episode 3:

Happy 50th Birthday to the Inheritance Act!

Season 5, Episode 4:

Conduct – an extra special joint episode with Law & Disorder

Regional activities

Focus on skill building

Resolution has over 30 Regional Groups and more than a thousand members actively volunteering at any one time.

Our regional groups connect family justice professionals locally, forming vibrant, supportive, and forward-thinking communities.

In June, Cambridge & West Suffolk hosted a Dispute Resolution Conference with several speakers (pictured)



In February YRes Buckinghamshire and Berkshire held a private mock Financial Dispute Resolution (FDR)



West Sussex Resolution held a seminar event with speakers Jo O'Sullivan, Catherine Wood KC and Karen Barham (third, fourth and fifth from left, respectively)



Vice-chair Lucy Loizou (in red) joined West Midlands Region for their Law Debate



Resolution Milton Keynes and Northants laid on training featuring speakers Farhana Shahzady (left) and barrister Caroline Croft (right) in May

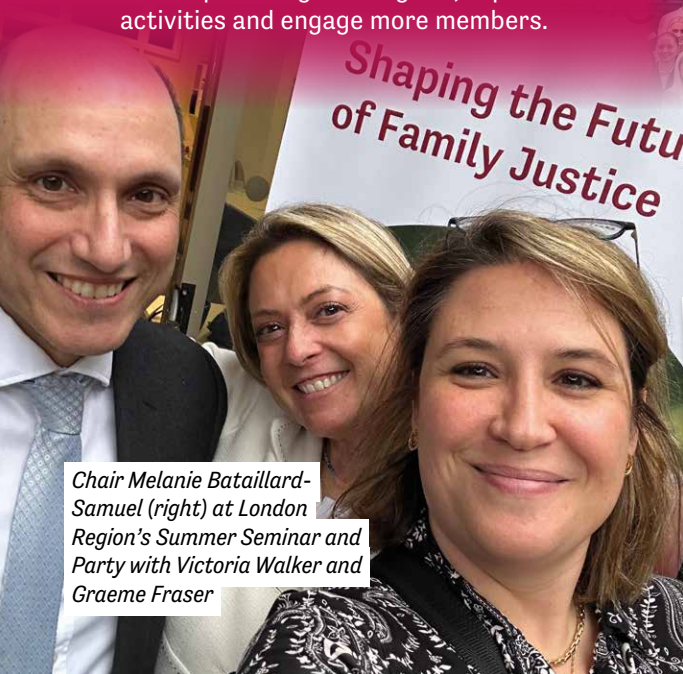
Chair and vice-chair on tour

Our Chair, Melanie Bataillard-Samuel, and Vice-Chair, Lucy Loizou, have spent countless hours travelling up and down the country to speak at events, talk to our volunteers and help our Regions to grow, expand their activities and engage more members.

Melanie and Lucy with members of Bristol Region



Melanie (centre) with Lucy (left) and speaker Marc Etherington (right) at Devon Region's conference at Buckfast Abbey



Chair Melanie Bataillard-Samuel (right) at London Region's Summer Seminar and Party with Victoria Walker and Graeme Fraser



Vice-chair Lucy Loizou joined Resolution Oxfordshire for their annual dinner at the Bodleian Library



Making connections

Sharing best practice within local networks is key to helping families navigate divorce and separation.

Our Regional committees are committed to strengthening collaboration, raising standards, and supporting professionals and organisations within their areas to resolve family disputes with clarity, compassion, and confidence.

Resolution West Mids and YRes West Mids held joint pre-conference drinks to celebrate the National Conference coming to Birmingham

Manchester Resolution's Awards were hosted by Joanne Radcliff (middle)

YRes South Wales feasted on pizza at their networking event in May



The Resolution Oxfordshire Committee held its annual dinner at The Ivy Oxford in January 2025



Melanie snaps a selfie at the inaugural South West Resolution Ball



All fun and games

Our Regions host a wide range of events throughout the year, from quiz nights and city tours to gala dinners and networking lunches.

There is something for everyone, wherever you live and however much time you can give.

Hampshire Region hosted their popular annual charity quiz and curry night in March



Hampshire Region members enjoyed messing about in boats at the Region's Summer Social in Salisbury

It was all to play for in garden games at the West Sussex Summer Social



London Region's Summer Seminar and Drinks Party drew a large crowd



39
Regions working for Resolution, connecting you with your local peers

National Committee members

Resolution's National Committee brings together a core group of members who lead the organisation, set the strategy and oversee the finances, making sure Resolution is doing all it can to achieve its vision and mission.



Melanie
Bataillard-Samuel
Chair



Lucy Loizou
Vice-chair



Alison Bull



Catherine Sousa



Claire Blakemore



David Lister



Elspeth Thomson



Farhana Shahzady



Felicia Munde



Graeme Fraser



Grant Cameron



Ian Walker



Jo Edwards



Juliet Harvey



Laura Clapton



Marc Etherington



Natalie Drew



Oluwapelumi
Amanda Adeola



Peter Burgess



Rebecca Hawkins



Simon Blain



Zoe Fleetwood

96

committee meetings held in
2025, making up 11,520 minutes
of discourse to support
Resolution in developing
resources, training, events and
challenging government

Your committees

Our committees are the heart and soul of Resolution. The many conferences, training, government consultations and guides and handbooks simply wouldn't be possible without the time, expertise and commitment of our committees. Today, Resolution has 24 specialist committees, made up of our members, who meet regularly and enable our organisation to continue to grow and develop.

24
active Resolution committees, shaping the way you work and influencing the changes you wish to see in family justice

With thanks to the following committees:

- Alumni Group
- Children
- Parenting After Parting
- Cohabitation
- Domestic Abuse
- Dispute Resolution
- Collaborative Practice
- Drafting
- Publications
- International
- Legal Aid
- Membership
- Pensions, Tax & Financial Remedies
- Standards
- Specialist Accreditation
- Training & Learning
- YRes
- Litigants in Person
- Innovation
- Family Law Reform Group
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Resolution Future Practice
- Wellbeing Committee
- Working Together Group



947
responses to our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Monitoring Survey

227
volunteers giving up their time to support Resolution's committee and regions

Committees in action: (from top to bottom) the National YRes committee, the Litigants in Person committee and the Parenting after Parting committee

Membership

6,679

Members (as of April 2026)

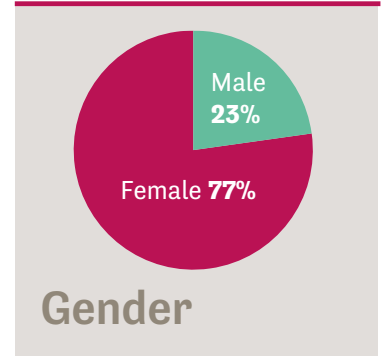
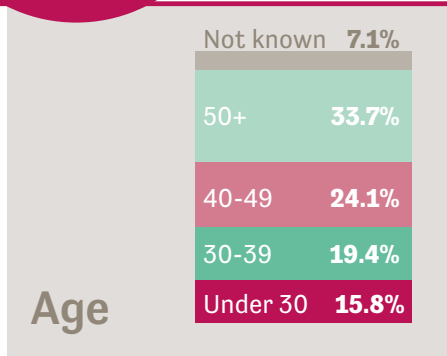
946 | New members
(joined during 2025)

342 | Student members
(as of April 2026)

2,318 | YRes members (as of April 2026) developing the leaders of tomorrow, today

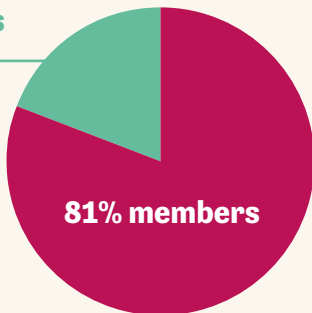
NB: circles are proportional in size to the whole membership circle (in green, left)

11% | Increase in membership year on year



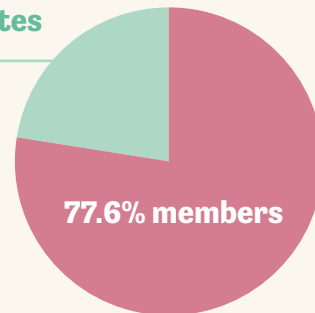
All Resolution members

19% associates

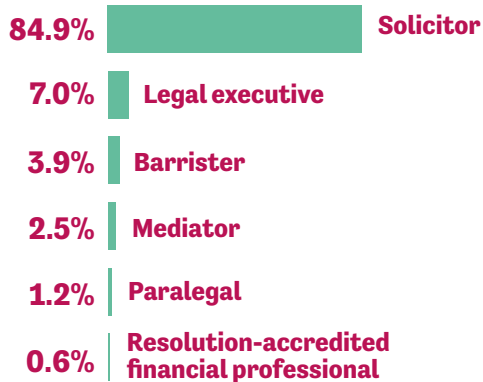


New Resolution members

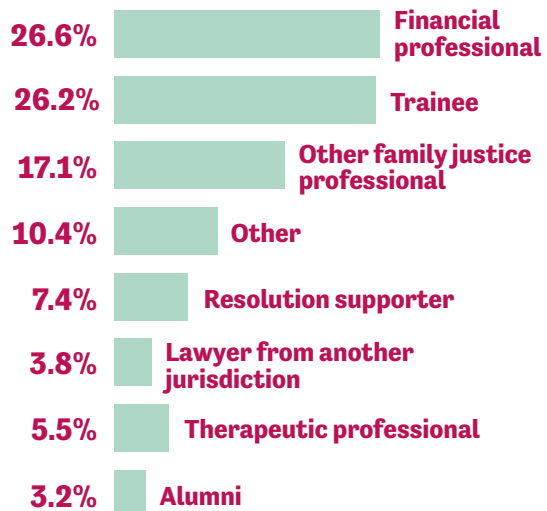
22.4% associates



Resolution members



Resolution associates



Annual accounts

Maintaining rigorous financial management and investing in services for members, means Resolution remains in a robust position to support members in new and different ways, to help them address current and future challenges in their professional work.

This year saw some significant changes, both within Resolution and the wider family justice world. Within the organisation, we have invested in a new Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) which enable us to support our members faster and in line with their specific needs.

In a challenging environment for membership organisations, and in the context of the broader economic situation, Resolution delivered a resilient financial performance. In 2025 our total income was just under £2.5 million, about the same as the previous year, reflecting the stability of our core activities. Membership income was slightly higher than in 2024, and the initial signs for 2026 are positive, partly as a result of the new CRM.

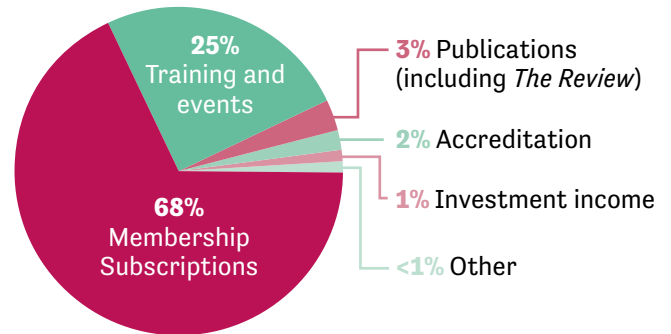
In terms of expenditure, Resolution continues to monitor and control costs extremely carefully. In line with our members' own firms, our main asset is our people, and in 2025 our staff costs totalled just over £1.15 million, including employers' costs e.g. National Insurance and pensions. We show this in the charts on this page as linked to the type of activity staff carry out on members' behalf.

For example, the Member Support line includes the team that respond to member enquiries, as well as the costs of technology and other functionality that enables us to support members. Influencing and engagement incorporates all our work to engage with policy development and the media, including our ongoing campaign to introduce cohabitation reform. This, together with the cost of activity and trading costs (e.g. putting on training and events), amounts to total expenditure just shy of £2.5 million, representing a broadly balanced budget.

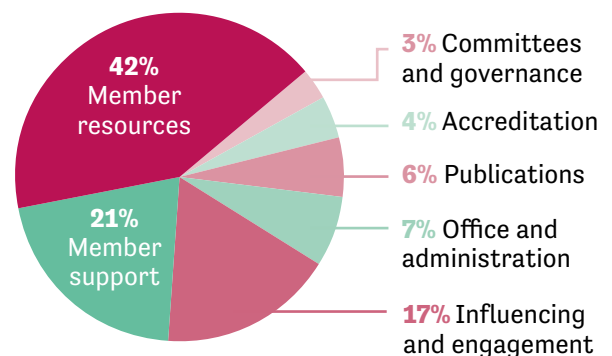
Our reserves continue to be stable, allowing us both to feel confident about our future, and ambitious in terms of investing to support our membership. Around £150k of reserves are committed to projects to improve our technology and continue to build our training and learning offer; we have around £120k of working capital; and we need to retain around £760k in managed reserves (approximately six months' running costs) in the unlikely event the organisation needs to be wound up.

During 2026, Resolution is well placed to build on our progress. With a continued focus on innovation, member support and financial sustainability, we are confident in our ability to deliver lasting value and to continue shaping the future of family justice.

Income	£	%
Membership subscriptions	1,645,119	68
Training and events	614,244	25
Publications (including <i>The Review</i>)	79,186	3
Accreditation	49,293	2
Investment income	25,215	1
Other	7,506	<1
TOTAL	£2,420,563	100



Expenditure	£	%
Training and events	£1,048,926	42
Member support	£532,409	21
Influencing and engagement	£421,126	17
Office and administration	£169,476	7
Publications	£154,821	6
Accreditation	£101,144	4
Committees and governance	£71,389	3
TOTAL	£2,499,292	100



Resolution staff members



Colin Jones
Chief Executive



Claire Easterman
Director of
Operations



Matt Bryant
Director of
Communications



Ali Bradley
Head of Project
Management and Deputy
Operations Director



Esther Pilger
Head of Editorial



Leah Ashcroft
Head of Central
Services



Rachel Carlyon
Head of Marketing



Rachel Rogers
Head of Policy



Sophina Khan
Head of Professional
Development



Sasha Wilson
Project Manager



Alicia Ayton
Training & Events
Assistant



Anthony Kendrick
Communications
Manager



Kimberley Carvalho
Marketing Manager



Lirika Shrkeli
Operations
Coordinator



Louisa Grisdale
Training & Learning
Manager



Maria Georgiou
Training & Events
Administrator



Reena Sawjani
Finance & Membership
Coordinator



Sara Merniz
Standards
Coordinator



Kate Leeks
Membership
Services Coordinator

Thank you to our volunteers

Everything Resolution does is for members, by members. We couldn't operate without the expertise, commitment and passion of our volunteers to keep the wheels of family justice turning.

- Abigail Pearse
- Aimee Aspinall
- Aimee Jones
- Alexandra Gooden
- Alison Bull
- Amanda Long
- Amber Kennedy
- Amy Barrow
- Amy Baugh
- Amy Langlois
- Andrew Powell
- Angela Killa
- Angela Lake-Carroll
- Ania Tarasiewicz
- Anita Mehta
- Anna Chenoweth
- Anna Jones
- Anna Roiser
- Anne Shears
- Anthony Hunt
- Aysha Choudhary
- Barry Browning
- Benitia Knowles-Wright
- Benjamin Pitman
- Bethan Carr
- Bethany Lodge
- Bina Modi
- Bridget Garrod
- Caitlin Levins
- Caroline Elliott
- Caroline Fell
- Caroline Watson
- Carolyn Tan
- Carrie Stoneham
- Carrie-Anne Walker
- Catherine Glennon
- Catherine Sousa
- Charlotte Millard
- Chris Evans
- Christopher Barnes
- Christopher Lawton
- Claire Blakemore
- Claire Dean
- Claire Higham
- Claire Tennant
- Claire Webb
- Clare Cox
- Clare Webb
- Claudene Howell
- Clizia Motterle
- Darren Francis
- David Emmerson
- David Leadercramer
- Dawn Millar
- Denise Ingamells
- Diane Matthews
- Donna Goodsell
- Elaine Richardson
- Eleanor Piddock
- Elizabeth Bruce
- Ellis Crow
- Eluned Roberts
- Emily Kwok
- Emma Collins
- Emma Gordon
- Emma Hamilton Cole
- Emma Hopkins Jones
- Emma Sanders
- Emma Wager
- Evie Smyth
- Filomena Sterkaj
- Fiona Greener
- Fiona Yellowlees
- Frances Bailey
- Francesca Skakel
- Gail Thompson
- Gary O'Brien
- Gavin Blackman
- Gemma Hope
- Georgia Schein
- Georgina Emerson
- Giuseppe Pingerna
- Grace Roberts
- Graeme Fraser
- Grant Cameron
- Hannah Petherick
- Hannah Saxe
- Helen Clyne
- Helen Handley
- Holly Thomas
- Ian Hawkins
- Ian Walker
- Isabelle Blumenthal
- James Prothero
- Jayne Martins
- Jemma Pollock
- Jennifer Lee
- Jo Carr
- Jo O'Sullivan
- Joanne Edwards
- Juliet Gordon
- Juliet Harvey
- Karen Barham
- Kate Molan
- Kate Moran
- Katharine Kilburn
- Katherine Lacey
- Katie Hanson
- Katy Duff
- Kay Masters
- Kelly Pougher
- Kerys Deavin
- Kimberley Davies
- Kirsty Morris
- Kristy Tidman
- La-Toyah Phillips
- Laura Clapton
- Lauren Deane
- Lauren Guy
- Lauren Harley
- Linda Lusingu
- Lisa Burton-Durham
- Loraine Davenport
- Louise Buttery
- Louise Minifie
- Lucy Chahil
- Lydia Murray
- Mahie Abey
- Manda Toms
- Mandy Spring
- Margaret Heathcote
- Margaret Kelly
- Mark Ablett
- Mark Gilmartin
- Mark Harrop
- Mark Stiebel
- Mary Raymont
- Matthew Humphries
- Matthew Taylor
- Megan Eaton
- Melanie Bataillard-Samuel
- Michael Allum
- Michael Finnegan
- Michael Gouriet
- Michelle Uppal
- Mitali Zakaria
- Naheed Ghauri
- Natalie Drew
- Natalie Sutherland
- Nazia Rashid
- Nicholas Longford



- Nicola Howarth
- Nicola Weeks
- Nigel Shepherd
- Olive Craig
- Olivia Piercy
- Oluwapelumi Amanda Adeola
- Paige Abbott
- Paul Cobley
- Pauline Ellis
- Pauline Fowler
- Philippa Tudor
- Phoebe Trott
- Pippa Allsop
- Rachel Bevan
- Rebecca Christie
- Rebecca Latham
- Remyhs Baker
- Rhianna Greenley
- Richard Baker
- Richard Port MBE
- Rohini Gangaramani
- Rose-Marie Drury
- Rosemary Sharp
- Sabina Smith
- Sadia French
- Sadie Glover
- Sally Jackson
- Samantha Jeanes
- Samara Brackley
- Sarah Archibald
- Sarah Basso
- Sarah Bell
- Sarah Green
- Sarah Hoskinson
- Sarah London
- Sarah Manning
- Sarah Marchant
- Sarah Marshall
- Sarah-Jane Riddell
- Shabana Jaffar
- Sharon Kay
- Shelley Cumbers
- Sian Churchill
- Simon Blain
- Simon Sugar
- Sital Fontenelle
- Sophie Martin
- Steven Hennessy
- Susan Alexander
- Susan Ellingham
- Susi Gillespie
- Suzan Scott
- Suzanne Kingston
- Taler Kelly
- Tammy Knox
- Tara Sanger
- Tasha Bevan-Stewart
- Tim Whitney
- Tom Trim
- Tristan Harvey
- Vanessa Sampaio
- Victoria Clarke
- Victoria Teymourian-Yates
- Victoria Walters
- Vikki Martin
- Vivian Akinbanjo
- Vivien Bell
- Voirrey Ward
- William Giles
- Xanthy Papageorgiou
- Yanoulla Kakoulli
- Yasmin Gizzi
- Yazmine Lane
- Zoe Culverwell
- Zoe Fleetwood

