



Women in Rail Communications Volunteers



Welcoming Our New Communications Volunteers

Champions of Connection at Women in Rail

At Women in Rail, we are proud to announce a fantastic new team of communications volunteers joining our mission to create a more diverse, inclusive, and supportive rail industry. These inspiring individuals bring energy, creativity, and commitment to our organisation at a time when our work has never been more vital.

The new volunteers will play a critical role in supporting our communications planning and deployment across Women in Rail, both nationally and within our regional teams. From crafting and sharing engaging content to amplifying our initiatives, campaigns, and events, they will act as true ambassadors for Women in Rail.

Through storytelling, social media engagement, and strategic communications support, they will help us highlight the many ways our community and work are making a difference, celebrating success stories, raising awareness of our activities and impact and encouraging more people across the rail sector to get involved.

The dedication of this team will be instrumental in rolling out our Strategic Business Plan and achieving our overarching vision and mission: ***to improve diversity in the UK rail industry, support the development of our members, and promote equality of opportunity for all.***

Their work will help us:

- Share powerful stories of women and allies making a difference in rail,
- Build connections between members, stakeholders, and partners,
- Amplify national and regional projects, ensuring every initiative has the platform it deserves,
- Inspire new members to join and contribute to our growing network.

We know that volunteering time and talent is no small commitment, and we are truly grateful to each of these amazing individuals for stepping forward to help Women in Rail thrive. Their support is not only generous, it is essential to sustaining and expanding the impact of our organisation.

As Women in Rail continues to work towards a fairer, more inclusive industry, our volunteers' efforts will help ensure our message reaches further, our community grows stronger, and our collective voice becomes even more powerful.

To our new communications volunteers, **thank you**. We can't wait to see the incredible difference you will make. Together, we are changing the face of rail, and your support is at the very heart of that journey.

Our New Communications Volunteers



Bhargavi Padhya - Rail Delivery Group

L&D Skills Manager, (Lead for RDG Leadership and Management Development Steering Group, Founder and Chair of Hindus in Rail Network)

"I wanted to join Women in Rail because I believe in the new rail vision for creating a fair, inclusive and diverse workplace where gender equity is the crux of every discussion. Together we can. Hence, it is my honour to be doing my share towards making this dream come true."



Caitlin Richardson - Richardson Rail

Assessment & Business Co-Ordinator

"I'm volunteering with Women in Rail because I really believe in what they're doing. Rail has so much potential, but I think there's still plenty of room to grow when it comes to showing women and young people that there's a place for them here."

"This felt like a great first step to get more involved and be part of that progress. I'll be helping out with comms, sharing the good stuff that's already happening and hopefully helping more people feel like they can be part of it too. After getting stuck in at the Bluebell Railway 200 event, I wanted to keep that momentum going."



Chigo Peters - Turner & Townsend

Associate Director

"Volunteering with Women in Rail for me is an opportunity to give back to an industry that has shaped my professional journey over the last 10+ years - but an industry where I've experienced the underrepresentation of women. I'm passionate about creating a space for others to thrive and using my experiences to support women navigating the sector. My personal goal is to help drive meaningful change and amplify the contributions of Women in Rail."

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Cleo Lindo - Avanti West Coast
Public Affairs Executive



"I wanted to be a Comms volunteer with Women in Rail because I believe that communication and employee engagement are powerful tools for building strength, particularly in an industry where representation and inclusion are so vital. By focusing on clear, purposeful communication, we can not only connect people and foster collaboration but also ensure that women across the rail sector feel recognised and appreciated for their contributions. For me, this role is about amplifying voices, celebrating achievements, and creating a culture where women feel valued and empowered, helping Women in Rail continue its mission of driving positive change and building a stronger, more inclusive industry."

Emma Ojanpera - DB Cargo UK
Lead Video Creator, NRC



"I recently attended the Women in Rail Yorkshire and North-East Spring to Summer Social. It was so inspiring to speak with likeminded individuals about the problems facing women in industry, so much so, that it's been the key driver in me applying for the volunteer comms position with Women in Rail. I hope that through my involvement we'll be able to make real progress on inclusivity and diversity in the workplace. My key interest is in improving the awareness of women's healthcare issues in the workplace".

Joanne Neill - Hitachi Rail
Warehouse Team Member & Woman's Network Comms Lead



"I've worked for Hitachi for 9 years now. My job role is Warehouse team member, but recently I've been involved with comms for the 'women's network' within the whole of Hitachi. Being one of only 3 women working within the warehouse environment, I love the fact that it's encouraged for more women to enter the kind of industries that aren't just office-based jobs."

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Karminder Johal - BCRRE, Birmingham University
Communications and Engagement Manager

"It's fair to say that don't just board a train — I track the updates, study the network, notice the engineering works and how systems connect. I watch as trains couple and cities move (poetically nerdy? I know right!) For me, it's all about communicating the impact of research and development. Joining Women in Rail as a communications volunteer means I can continue to connect the dots and speak to everyone about the amazing work that takes place. Whether you're an engineer who understands the systems or a passenger just trying to get to work on time. It's about making the complex clear."



Kelly Meachin - Buckland Rail
Head of Sales and Bids

"Joining Women in Rail as a communications volunteer is another way for me to give back and provide support to further the excellent work the Women in Rail team is doing across our industry, and I cannot wait to join the team in delivering the communications strategy.....watch this space!"



Lucy Prior - Octavius Infrastructure
Business Development Lead - Rail

"I wanted to volunteer because I believe in the power of strong, purposeful communication to inspire change and build lasting connections across the rail industry. I have learned that effective communication is not just about sharing information; it is about creating opportunities, opening doors, and giving voice to those who may not always be heard. I want to contribute to building an industry that is not only innovative and high-performing, but also inclusive, responsible, and future-focused."

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Rachel Avenell - Southern Renewals Enterprise
Engagement and Wellbeing Lead

"I have supported Women in Rail for a long time, having taken part in the mentorship programme, been a past member of WiR South and championing the EDI Charter for Rail. I am passionate about making the rail industry a more diverse and inclusive place to work, wanting to inspire future generations of women to join. I can't wait to connect with like-minded individuals and hope to make a real impact in this role!"



Tara Matthews - Rail Delivery Group
Project Manager

"Women in Rail is important to me because it creates a meaningful space for professionals across the rail industry to connect, support, and empower women at every level. As a Project Manager in this field, I've seen first-hand how successful projects are built not just on planning and execution, but on the strength of the people behind them. I believe in the power of collaboration, mentorship, and shared experience to drive both individual growth and better project outcomes. Being part of a community that actively uplifts women and promotes diversity and inclusion aligns strongly with my personal and professional values. I'm excited about the opportunity to engage with like-minded professionals, contribute to positive change within the industry, and help shape a more inclusive future for rail."