

The MPG Team



Ian Solomon Kawall - Co-Founder & Managing Director

Ian has over 20 years experience across training, education, community engagement and the events industry. He founded MPG in 2007 with minimal resources and through his creative engagement and ability to attract and recruit strong staff from diverse backgrounds, he's grown it into the award-winning social enterprise that it is today. Alongside MPG, Ian delivers diversity training and workshops on how creativity can be used in schools and the workplace, working with partners such as BBC London, National Education Union and Islington Council. He programmes events and festival stages across the UK, including Secret Garden Party, Shambala and Green Gathering. He's also a recognised public speaker on issues of diversity, sustainability, BAME and youth engagement, music and mental health, with appearances including PWC, In Place of War, Sunday Assembly, Mayor of London's Food Panel, the Food Sovereignty Convention and Permaculture Association.

Zaira Rasool - Programmes Director

Zaira has years of experience in the youth and education sector, in particular in recruitment and retention of young people, staff and volunteers, having managed recruitment programmes for IntoUniversity, DePaul UK and Repowering London, all with a focus on engaging BAME groups. Alongside MPG she manages the new internship programme and Solar Schools programme for Repowering London, aiming to get young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into solar energy and making the social sector more energy-efficient. She was also selected by the Mayor of London's Community Food Grower's Network to advise their staff support committee and has worked with many marginalised groups, including developing and delivering educational programmes for refugee kids and young people excluded from school, and mentoring young people in care for Brent Council.



Mona Bani - Strategic Director

Mona has years of experience consulting charities, local authorities and the Cabinet Office on effective outreach, communications, youth and equalities policy and staff recruitment. In 2013 she led a project for the Minister for Civil Society (Nick Hurd) on how to increase diversity on the government's flagship youth programme, National Citizen Service, and won a civil servant achievement award for her work, as a seconded Policy Adviser at the Cabinet Office - training and advising government funded delivery partners to meet government targets. Since then she spent 3 years as a Social Enterprise Growth Consultant on the Big Lottery funded Big Venture Challenge Programme, advising over 30 social enterprises, including Sunday Assembly, Latimer Group and Edukit. Alongside MPG she's Director of Education and Culture at Every Voice UK, who lead on all Equalities policy for Islington Council. She also delivers consultancy contracts for PMG Consultancy and ThirdBridge, specialising in organisational development.

