

Fortitude and courage in face of danger recognised at glittering ceremony.

In a break from tradition and after a most tumultuous year, a group of women from the **UK's Police, Fire and Ambulance Services** have been jointly rewarded today at a gala award ceremony in Birmingham, in gratitude and recognition of their leadership and dedication in the face of the terrorist atrocities in Manchester and London and the terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower.

Receiving the Woman of Achievement Award 2017 on behalf of the women of the Emergency Services were **Commissioner Dany Cotton** of the London Fire Service, **Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi** of the Metropolitan Police Service, **PC Alice Jacobs**, who was one of the first on the scene during the recent London terror attacks, **Heather Lawrence OBE** of the London Ambulance Service, **Lady Penny Cobham** Deputy Assistant Commissioner), **Tracy Porter**, Head of Resilience and Special Operations of the London Ambulance Service and **Phillippa Dempster** Managing Partner Freeths Solicitors.

The Award was presented to the women by former winner **Baroness Helen Newlove of Warrington, Victims Commissioner for England and Wales**. The women take over from the current holder, Liverpool's Margaret Aspinall, who received the award in recognition of her tireless campaigning for justice for the families and friends of the 96 people who lost their lives

) **Tracy Porter**(London Ambulance Service), , **PC Alice Jacobs**(**London Metropolitan Police**

Former winners of the Woman of Courage or Achievement Award include Martine Wright, who overcame the horrific loss of both of her legs in the 7/7 terrorist bombings of 2005 to rebuild her life and compete at the London 2012 Paralympics, and Katie Piper, whose personal story My Beautiful Face inspired millions.

Also celebrated at the awards was Fleur Sexton, co-founder of PET-Xi Training, which has helped more than 100,000 youngsters from across the UK, who received the Businesswoman of the Year award from Nicola Elliott, founder of home fragrance brand, Neom Organics.

The 35th annual Women of the Year luncheon and awards ceremony, hosted by BBC Midlands Today's Arti Halai and Nick Owen, took place at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, NEC on 6 October 2017. Around 500 guests were treated to a three course luncheon before the presentation of the awards. Proceeds from the event will be divided between Revitalise and Tomorrow's People.