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Arab Woman Awards UAE 2017 Winners Announced

*Awards presented by His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan
Her Excellency Jameela Al Muhairi wins Education award
Reem Al Fahim named Humanitarian of the Year*

The Arab Woman Awards held its ninth annual ceremony on Saturday 9th December at Emirates Palace Abu Dhabi under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, newly appointed Minister of Tolerance for the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The ceremony honoured 19 inspiring Arab women who were selected to win in the award's various categories in recognition of their outstanding contributions across fields including business, education, medicine and literature. This year's awards acknowledged the UAE's first female Minister of Public Education, Her Excellency Jameela Al Muhairi; SEDRA Foundation CEO Reem Al Fahim for her 15-year work with persons with disabilities and acclaimed oncoplastic surgeon, Dr Mouza Al Ameri.

Arab Woman Awards founder Sue Holt said 'Our winners are outstanding individuals making a difference to society in the way we live, think, work and communicate. I personally always find it amazing to discover women in the UAE, many of which have not been publically known before, who are achieving things for the greater good.'

The award winners are elected by an independent board of judges who this year were (in alphabetical order): **Sheika Dr Alia Humaid Al Qassimi**, CEO of Social Care & Development at Community Development Authority; **Asma Al Fahim**, Abu Dhabi Businesswoman & Entrepreneur; **Bodour Al Hilali**, Young Entrepreneur; **Dr Nawal Al Hosany**, Director of Sustainability, MASDAR; **Khawla Serkal**, Director General, Sharjah Ladies Club; **Nadine Maalouf**, Co-founder 81 Designs; **Professor Rafia Ghubash**, President of The Women's Museum; **Sharifa Sehweil**, Co-founder of Bodytree Studio; and **HH Sheikha Wafa Hasher Al Maktoum**, Founder, FN Designs art gallery.

The future stars of the UAE were celebrated during the ceremony with awards presented to Heba Al Samt, a digital media trailblazer who started the first social virtual community, jewellery designer, Shamsa Alabbar, and the UAE's first figure skater to compete internationally, Zahra Lari.



The private luncheon event was held at the West Wing, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi with over 100 guests in attendance including members of the UAE royal families, doctors, leading businesswomen, winners and their special guests. The award partners included official car partner – Emirates Motor Company; Intisar Jewelry, GOLD Collagen and Genie Events. Abu Dhabi based Rahma Cancer Care Society was the official charity partner with the awards used to raise awareness of this organisation.

Winners of the Arab Woman Awards UAE 2017:

Business	Souad Al Hosani
Government	Hessa Tahlak
Special Recognition	Hind Al Merhairbi
Inspirational Woman of the Year	Shahainaz Ahmad Ramadan
Media	HE Maryam Al Mheiri
Legal	Raya Abu Ghulal
Finance	Elham Al Qasimi
Literature	Parween Habib
Medical	Dr Mouza Mohammed Al Ameri
Energy	Haif Zamzam Al Hammadi
Designer	Sheikha Amal Al Maktoum
Young Designer	Shamsa Alabbar
Art	Maitha Bin Demaithan Al Qemzi
Entrepreneur	Shayma Fawwaz, Gossip Desserts
Digital	Heba Al Samt
Sport	Zahra Lari
Young Talent	Alia Al Mansoori
Humanitarian	Reem Al Fahim
Education	HE Jameela Al Muhairi

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Notes to Editors:

About the Arab Woman Awards

The Arab Woman Awards were launched in 2009 by ITP Media Group in Dubai with the aim of raising public awareness of the significant achievements by Arab women and to provide young women with inspirational role models. The event runs across the GCC and is an annual opportunity to shed light on inspiring Arab women and offers attendees and winners the chance to open communication channels, create networks and share their stories of success.

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