



EMWOSE
Women from ethnic minorities in social enterprise

Interview form

Overview

Name: Niluka Denuwara

Social Enterprise:
Immigration & Property Law
Liverpool City Centre
Liverpool L18JQ UK



I am a lawyer in Sri Lanka and converted as a solicitor and admitted to the law society in the UK in 2010.

Hi, my name is Niluka. After completing my undergraduate studies in law at a leading state-run university in Sri Lanka and getting married, I moved to the UK. I then obtained my UK solicitor qualification. I live with my husband and our two children in the West Cheshire area.

I have always thought about running a social enterprise business, with my profession and the experience I acquired in both Sri Lanka and the UK, because I enjoy working with people, networking and building relationships with colleagues, friends and relatives. I have always enjoyed connecting with people around me, including families, friends and colleagues.

My religion is Buddhism; I follow Buddha's teachings, and I lead a Buddhist lifestyle. Buddhism has helped me become more compassionate towards others. As a result, I started my social enterprise business, which impacts both the economy and society in a positive way.

I run a small and simple social enterprise firm that caters to many people with issues relating to immigration and property as I specialise in these areas of law. We have a community in the UK with many small business owners that need assistance in commercial property and many immigrants that seek reliable advice for their UK residency applications.

Interview transcript

Keywords:

Charitable, Sri Lanka
Buddhism, Solicitor
Immigration, Property
Residency Application
Legal Aid, Assistance
Liverpool, West Cheshire
Social Enterprise

I've found that many people have been misled and, as a result, lost a lot of money that they worked hard to earn. These people are distressed both financially and emotionally. Therefore, I have catered to many clients free of charge due to my way of life and my application of religious teachings. I know that this business is not only for profit, but I have to contribute to the community. As mentioned, I have frequently given legal advice and guidance to the community free of charge.

The biggest challenge was the fluctuating cash flow of the social enterprise business. My colleagues are now trying to identify potential clients outside the UK due to fierce competition in the UK market. Also, with word of free service being spread across the community, I find that many people that are not genuinely in need of free service or are able to pay try to take advantage of us.

With the recent virus outbreak, my social enterprise business will have to face many more challenges in the future, such as clients' hesitation to speak up about their legal problems because of the uncertainty around the COVID-19 restrictions.

Full video [here](#)

