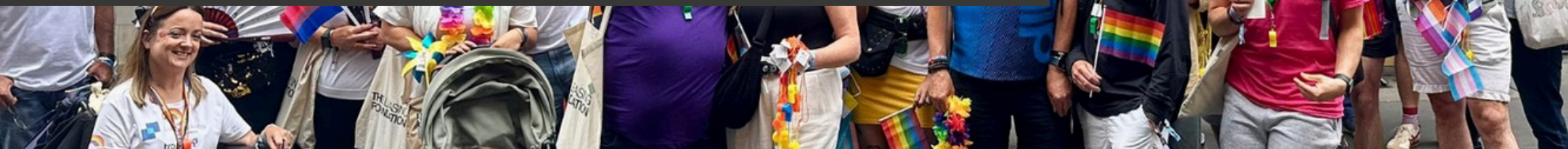


THE LEASING FOUNDATION  
SEPTEMBER 2025

# HELLO FROM THE EDI GROUP



It's hard to believe we're already heading towards the end of the year! Since January, the Leasing Foundation has hosted more events than ever, raised thousands for our charity partner Coach Core and brought people together from every corner of the asset finance industry. From the sell-out summer party to our 50-strong march at London Pride, it's been wonderful to see so many of you getting involved.

This update comes from our [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#) group - a team of individuals with the passion and drive to make change happen. We've recently been reflecting on our strategy, proud of how far we've come and excited to build on the momentum.

Looking ahead, we're also setting our sights on 2026. We'll be bringing all our work together under a single theme - 'you belong here'. It's a simple message with real weight and one that will guide everything we do next year.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates on our exciting new work across gender, the return of Connect Roulette and information on the AFPA Big Cycle ride to Paris.

Thank you for being part of it all.

You belong here.

**Helena Thernstrom, director and  
EDI lead of the Leasing Foundation**



## The AFPA Big Cycle - riding for Coach Core

In October, Isaac Kennedy from Novuna Business Finance will take on the AFPA Trust's London to Paris Big Cycle in aid of Coach Core, our charity partner. Thanks to AFPA's generosity in funding his place, every pound raised will go directly to helping young people access training and jobs through sport.

Show your support and [donate here](#).





## EDI events in 2025 so far

2025 has been a landmark year for the Leasing Foundation's EDI group. In March, we held a powerful session on championing [inclusion and accessibility in the workplace](#), bringing together voices from across the sector to share real experiences and practical steps for creating supportive environments. The event was a reminder that accessibility and well-being are essential to inclusion, not an afterthought.

Also in March, across [Women's History Month and the International Women's Day \(IWD\)](#), we repeated last year's hugely successful spotlight series on inspirational women from the industry – now a flagship initiative for us. Each working day of the month, we shone a spotlight on a female industry colleague who shared her reflections on lessons learned to date. All 25 participants role modelled this year's IWD theme of #AccelerateAction.

In July, we made history as 50 colleagues from across the industry joined us for the first-ever coordinated [Pride march](#) for the asset finance sector. Walking from Hyde Park Corner to Westminster alongside over 35,000 others, we showed that our industry is serious about visibility, allyship and standing in solidarity with LGBTQ+ colleagues.

We also hosted our first event for [South Asian Heritage Month](#). The evening featured a panel of inspiring speakers sharing their lived experiences of identity, representation and inclusion, followed by open networking. It was honest, celebratory and thought-provoking in equal measure.

These events reflect what the EDI group is all about - creating safe, meaningful spaces for conversation, raising awareness and sparking change. Together, they've helped build stronger networks and moved our industry one step closer to being truly inclusive.

## Future work and focus on gender

What does it really mean to be a woman working in asset finance? That was the focus of [Defining Moments](#), our virtual September event which heard from women at different stages of their careers about the decisions, trade-offs and challenges that have shaped their paths.

The event went beyond surface-level stories to look at the barriers women face and how to navigate them. Following a panel discussion, we moved into breakout sessions where everyone discussed their own views and experiences.

Your contributions will feed directly into the Foundation's upcoming gender work, set to formally launch in Q4 2025. This is about creating lasting change - ensuring more women are represented, supported and given opportunities to lead. [If you are interested in supporting this work let us know!](#)



Above pictures: (clockwise from left): disability and mental health in the workplace event, IWD2025, Pride 2025



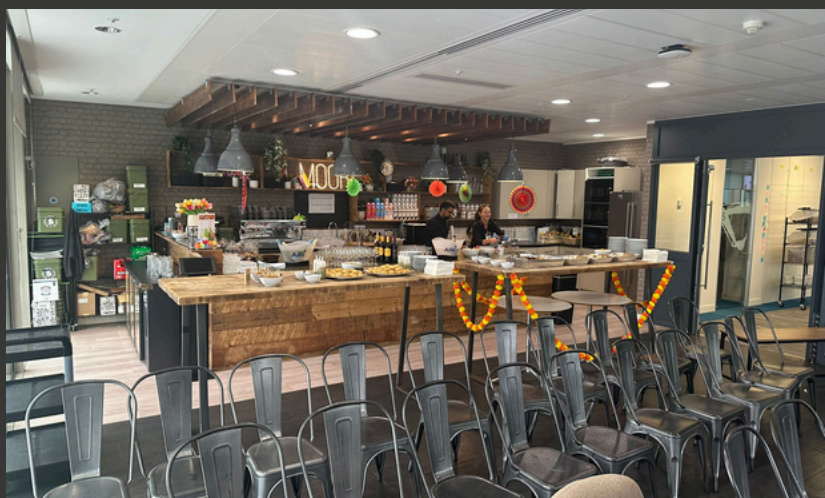


## Connect Roulette returns

Back by popular demand - [Connect Roulette](#) is returning this autumn. Launched last year, the initiative paired up hundreds of professionals across the sector for quick-fire conversations. The feedback was overwhelming - new mentors were found, careers got a boost and lasting friendships were made.

This year we're aiming for even more connections. Sign up and you'll be paired with someone outside your usual circle for a 30-minute chat. It could be a Teams call, a coffee or even a walk and talk. What comes next is up to you. Some people stay in touch, others pass the baton and open their networks.

It's simple, fun and free. And it's one of the most effective ways we've found to connect people across the industry. For more information and to sign up, [click here](#)



Above pictures: some of the EDI group (top), getting ready for our South Asian Heritage event

## About The Leasing Foundation

At The Leasing Foundation, our mission is simple: to build a diverse, world-class community of business finance professionals and empower them to be a force for good. We achieve this by offering opportunities for personal development, training and insights, while we collaborate and strengthen networks across the industry. Through our five streams - [NextGeneration Network](#); [Innovation](#); [Equity](#), [Diversity & Inclusion](#); [Sustainability](#) and the [Giving Network](#) we address the key areas shaping the future of business finance.

Whether you're starting out or leading a team, there's a place for you here.

To get involved or find out more, contact us at [hello@leasingfoundation.org](mailto:hello@leasingfoundation.org) or visit [www.leasingfoundation.org](http://www.leasingfoundation.org)



## Forthcoming events

**October 2025 - Sustainability B-Corp Insights webinar**  
More info coming soon

**November 2025 – Next Gen London Networking**  
More info coming soon

All current and future events (and news) will be updated [here](#).