

NEENA GILL



“for being one of the most vocal and proactive members of the European Parliament; for being a messenger of peace, harmony and disarmament, who has led a global movement against gross violations of human, women and child rights around the globe.”



## ON A MISSION... WITH A VISION

Born in India, Neena Gill is currently serving her third term as a Labour Member of the European Parliament for the West Midlands, she's spent over 18 years working in social housing in a variety of inner-city areas across the UK to tackle issues of social deprivation and homelessness and hit the headlines by setting up the country's first 'Asian-only' sheltered accommodation. In January 2017, she receives a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by the Queen, for parliamentary and political service. Later that month, she was awarded with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman - the highest Indian award given to non-Indians - for her contribution in the field of public service. Neena Gill was the first woman of Asian origin to be elected to the European Parliament. Her work there covers economic and monetary affairs, tax, and foreign affairs.

She is full member of the Committee for Economic and Monetary Affairs, substitute on PANA Committee, and substitute for the Committee of Foreign Affairs. Neena is also First Vice-President to the Delegation for Relations with India, and a member of the Delegation to the US.

Throughout her political and diplomatic career, Neena had stood up to oppose injustice. She had ensured debates and resolutions in the European Parliament, on the grave human rights violations in the Philippines and Bangladesh. The European Parliament and the Bangladesh government have made progress together working on garment sector and labour rights because of her sustained efforts. Also to her credit, the Bangladesh government had passed the Child Marriage Restraint Act. She has also voiced



her critique on one of the worst ongoing human tragedies - the bloody civil war in Syria and effectively argued to achieve a successful, UN-monitored ceasefire in the region. She has also spoken at large on various occasions about the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where millions are displaced and thousands are dying. Half a million children are at risk of malnutrition. She has singlehandedly-garnered support at various policy making desks in order to avoid destabilization of the entire central African region.

As the British government is moving ahead with its ideologically driven version of Brexit - just round the corner, Neena has most articulately narrated her fear that many families, institutions and businesses are being harmed in the process - which has been confirmed by her meetings with various figures leading in a variety of sectors, from business, health and education. However, Neena's greatest priority in terms of representing the West Midlands throughout the Brexit process is to ensure that all jobs in the region are secured. Much of this will hinge on the closeness to the European Single Market as she prioritizes to secure a deal for a tariff free access to it, in order to get time to negotiate new trade deals.

Neena Gill has also contributed immensely towards curbing and restrictions of hate crimes all across her constituency. Since the EU referendum, violent crimes against minorities have spiked across the West Midlands, where a criminal used acid, boiling-hot water or lit cigarettes to cause skin damage. Almost half were in Birmingham, with the rest in other parts of the region. As the numbers have been increasing year on year, Neena realized the need to act fast to stamp out this kind of vicious attacks. She has co-founded a cross-party group - West Midlands Together (WMT) - that would keep a close vigil and stand up to bigotry and prejudice in the region.

