

HOW I GOT HERE

GINA MILLER

The business owner and campaigner on why she wants women to take control of their financial futures

BY MARIE-CLAIRE CHAPPET



A prominent British businesswoman and activist, Gina Miller is known for challenging the Government's triggering of Article 50 in 2016 and for disputing Boris Johnson's prorogation of Parliament in 2019. In 2020, she founded the financial-literacy initiative MoneyShe, which she recently expanded to offer discretionary-investment portfolios to women, with the aim of closing the gender pension and investment gap.

What did you want to be when you grew up? My earliest ambition was to be a criminal barrister. My father was a human-rights lawyer, so I grew up understanding that the law wasn't just something that lived in books; it makes people's lives better.

What was your first job? I blagged myself shifts as a chambermaid at the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne – I was 14 and they thought I was 16. I'd work before and after school.

What did you spend your first pay check on? A hideous green skirt, which I loved.

What was your first big break? While I

was studying for my marketing degree, one of my lecturers said I was the best student he had ever had. His belief in me, and his help introducing me to the world of finance, was a game-changer. I founded a specialist financial-services-marketing agency in the UK within a year of leaving university.

How did you know this was what you wanted to do? Years ago, I was forced to live in a car with my daughter for three weeks because my ex-partner took everything. It became my mission to fight for women's financial education and freedom so no one else had to go through that.

What are the biggest challenges of your career? In the fund-management sector, the figures are sadly going in the wrong direction. It's a male-dominated, misogynistic industry. That's why I'm trying to change it.

How do you cope with failure? I'm now on my seventh business, but I have tried to launch twice as many. Though half have failed, I've never seen them as wasted effort. I think: 'What can I do better next time?'

How do you celebrate success? I call up my closest girlfriends.

How has your leadership style developed? When I started in finance, we were told to be masculine and aggressive. I've softened in time and come to realise that the traits women are put down for in business – being too nice, too collegiate, too considerate – are actually huge benefits.

What advice would you give your younger self? Listen to the inner voice that tells you instinctively when something is right or wrong, and then speak out.

monieshe.com

TECH BEAT



Nest Learning Thermostat, £219, Google (store.google.com)

Green gadgets that won't cost the Earth



Solar Bluetooth Speaker, £99.99, House of Marley (thehouseofmarley.co.uk)

Air Filter, £329, Briiv (briiv.co.uk)



Smart Waste Kitchen Composter, £379, Lomi (eu.lomi.com)



Backpack Solar, £356, PG Branding (pgbranding.com)



ECO WARRIORS

The environmental ambassadors, protesters and not-for-profit leaders to know



LUISA NEUBAUER

The activist is a leader of Greta Thunberg's 'Fridays for Future' movement, in which students skip classes to protest against the climate crisis. Her efforts have led Germany to pass its first national climate law.



LAURENCE TUBIANA

Since the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, the economist has served as France's Climate Change Ambassador and Special Representative for COP21. She is one of the chief architects of the 2015 Paris Agreement.



NEMONTE NENQUIMO

A member of the Waorani nation from the Amazonian region of Ecuador, Nenquimo fights against deforestation. As the co-founder of the Ceibo Alliance, she defends the rights of native communities.



ELENI MYRIVILI

The first 'global chief heat officer', Myrivili works with urban-planning organisations and designs heat-adaptation solutions to create novel, long-term solutions to the climate crisis. SARA OJALA

MY WORKING LIFE

SABINA BELLI

The CEO of Pomellato – and founder of the brand's women's initiative – takes *Bazaar* through her 9-to-5

I have totally changed my approach to the working day. I used to think sleeping in was the worst possible thing, but I recently took a course in neuroscience for business at MIT and learnt that the most important factor for your health and well-being is the quality of your sleep. Now, I listen to my body and wake up later.

I take my time in the morning. I check my emails, read the news and contact my grown-up daughters to wish them good luck for the day.

My office is like a stylish living-room. I work at a gorgeous round table that I also use to host meetings. It is a good space to connect with my team; they are what keeps me motivated.

I have a very particular way of tackling procrastination. I pretend the annoying tasks in my week are little frogs that are



sitting on my shoulder and croaking in my ear. I know if I don't address them, the noise will get louder and louder – so I try to deal with them as soon as possible.

My favourite parts of the week are creative meetings. The very early days of coming up with a product are fascinating. There is the magic of creating the new pieces, mixed with a lot of

rational thinking in terms of how to build the business around them. These moments really fuel me, as they are at the heart of what we do.

I work in luxury, so I always intend to look the part. Wherever I am, I should be an ambassador for the brand.

My personal life is important to me, so I aim to get home at a decent hour. Now that my kids have grown up, I spend this time with my husband. We take it in turns to surprise each other with dates.



APPY PLANET

Tools to help you make a difference



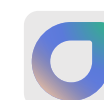
KLIMA

This app designs a bespoke plan for offsetting and reducing your carbon emissions. *klima.com*



GREENLY

Useful for both individuals and companies, this platform answers your climate-change queries. *greenly.earth*



EARTH HERO

A fun and engaging way to measure your impact on the environment and set goals to improve. *earthhero.org*